Bengaluru Sunday, August 17, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 228 ₹8

Monsoon magic in Sindhudurg

TRAVEL, P17

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Waiter, there's a shroom in my brew!

Coffee and tea are evolving, with mushroom-infused blends, matcha, and wellness teas

FOOD & DRINK, P16

Life after the gun: Why surrender does not mean peace

Years after they gave up arms, thousands of former militants live under suspicion, without livelihoods, and with no way to shed the past

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

INSIGHT

In the early 1990s, Jabbar* was just 18, crouched in the apple orchards of Baramulla with a Kalashnikov (a weapon) digging into his shoulder. His face was hidden, but his heart burned with the fire others had lit. "We were told we were the chosen ones," he recalls now at 51. "Martyrs in the making," he adds.

Back then, the village believed it too. Slogans ricocheted through the streets, masjid speakers echoed speeches about jihad (the holy war), and recruiters promised glory. The unseen toll of this was that boys barely old enough to shave were sent into gunfights they could not win.

Between 1990 and 2024, official figures suggest around 4,100 militants surrendered due to relentless counter-insurgency operations, combat fatigue, internal factionalism and the lure of government rehabilitation schemes. Over 21,000 were arrested in the first two decades alone. Some got jobs. Most did not.

Jabbar was not alone in falling into the trap of believing that after surrendering, he would be able to leave the violence behind and live a normal life. There were thousands of youngsters who bought into this belief. Among them were Farooq* and Shabir* from Jabbar's neighbouring villages.

Years later, the three would surrender, empty-handed and broken, returning to a homeland that looked the same but had no place for them — spurned by the state, mistrusted by their own.

Between 1990 and 2024, official figures suggest around 4,100 militants have surrendered in Jammu and Kashmir. In pic, security personnel in Srinagar after a terror attack. PTI PHOTO

The price of the return

Farooq crossed back over the Line of Control (LoC) in 1994 after spending three years in Pakistan for arms training and surrendered to the army. His mother wept, clutching his face in her palms.

"To some, I was a deserter. To others, a traitor. To most... nobody." Today, he drives a rented cab. "My daughter is 26. Nobody will marry into our family," he says.

Ishfaq, who surrendered in the late 1990s, built a small garment shop with borrowed money. But the frequent police summons, the sudden knocks at the door and the shadow of suspicion have emptied the shop faster than it was in business.

"You give up the gun, thinking life will return to normal," he says, looking out at the empty storefront. "But it never does quite return to normal," he says.

Their stories are not rare. They are repeated in hundreds of homes across Kashmir. Men who try to return to life find many roadblocks.

Surrendered militants have also brought stigma to their families. Mothers still wait for their sons to be seen as more than their past; daughters and sons inherit this stigma even though they have not participated in this fight. Their stories of unsuccessful integration, in part, have contributed to the dwindling figures of militant surrenders in the region over the past decade. This crisis is deepened by political alienation and civilian casualties.

In the first years of militancy, recruitment held some appeal for some young Kashmiris. Young men were told that their deaths would be in history's ink. But those who survived long enough to surrender came to learn the truth of this glory and the toll it demanded.

The loudest voices calling for such violence were protected from the violent realities of insurgency. They were most likely removed from the violence, in protected rooms, some in Kashmir, some in Pakistan and some in Western capitals.

▸ Rehabilitation, Page 2

Wronged without rights

Ejected from forests long ago, dwellers' claims now rejected almost en masse

P5

Kerala: BJP's Christian outreach back to square one

The alleged assault on Malayali nuns in Chhattisgarh by right-wing activists has put the saffron camp on the back foot ahead of crucial polls

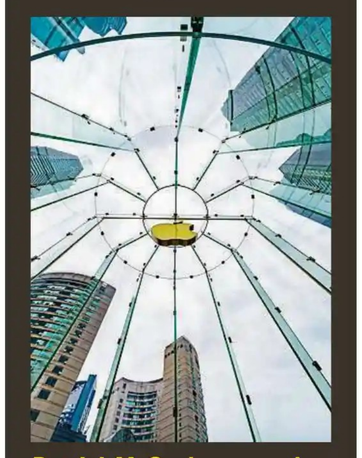
P9

Slowdown in the fast lane

While Bumrah and Siraj are in a league of their own, the fast bowling core group has been considerably weakened and plenty of works lies ahead in strengthening it

P12

Beijing's bite



Patrick McGee's engrossing new book charts Apple's deep ties with China, now threatened by tensions with the US

BOOKS, P 15

Two lands, one rose

Oman's hills are mirrored in the river winds of Kannauj, where tradition and skill meet to create a timeless perfume

ART & PURSUITS, P 18

THE SUNDAY STORY

Crafting controversy: Rethinking protection for India's arts

As global luxury brands turn to Indian heritage crafts for inspiration, questions mount over fair collaboration, legal protection, and the future of traditional artisans

SUNDAR ATHREYA H & ABHILASHA RATHORE

When Italian luxury fashion house Prada unveiled T-strapped leather flats at its Spring-Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan, the design's resemblance to Kolhapuri chappals ignited a wave of criticism in India over cultural appropriation and the misuse of traditional crafts.

The debate deepened when reports emerged that the brand was eyeing another Maharashtrian heritage product: Hupari's silver anklets, famed for their intricate filigree and protected under the Geographical Indications law.

The two episodes have brought renewed attention to how global fashion houses engage with indigenous artisans, raising urgent questions about cultural ownership, fair benefit-sharing, and the limits of legal protection for traditional crafts.

India is home to a rich tapestry of such heritage products, from jewellery, perfumes, clothes and furniture to accessories, food and spirits. These crafts are deeply rooted in tradition, aesthetic sensibility and artisanal skill, often tied to a specific locality whose name has become inseparable from the product itself.

Darjeeling tea, Kolhapur footwear, Mysore silk sarees and Kanchipuram silk sarees are just a few examples. While they may be available in markets far from their origin, their identity — and often their value — is inextricably linked to the place from which they come.

The aforementioned goods, among others, are registered and protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (hereinafter the GI Act). The GI Act grants associations that produce these products the right to prevent other producers from using their name, thereby preserving market exclusivity and preventing misuse by unauthorised persons within India.

GI is a market right granted to manufacturers. It allows them to profit from the reputation of the product. However, GI registration does not automatically create a market or guarantee economic returns. It is simply one of the tools available to monetise a product.

Debate erupted after Prada featured footwear resembling Kolhapuri chappals in its Spring-Summer show. In pic, the iconic sandals on display at a store in New Delhi. REUTERS

The GI Act forms part of the broader framework of intellectual property laws but differs in its mode of protection.

Unlike the Copyright Act or the Patent Act, it does not protect the underlying creation; that is, the work itself does not receive protection. Instead, like trademark law, it safeguards the name of the product.

The rights of artisans

GI is a collective right vested in an association representing its manufacturers, which works to protect its name. The effectiveness of this right depends heavily on the organisational capacity and the financial and legal resources of the association to pursue infringers.

Shortly after the global uproar, a Prada team visited Maharashtra to explore a possible collaboration with artisans in Kolhapur. For the artisans, the prospect of working with such an iconic brand might seem promising, but it must be planned carefully to ensure meaningful protection for their craft.

Similarly, Hupari, a small enclave about twenty kilometres from Kolhapur, is known as the 'Silver City of India'. It is home to thousands of artisans and more than a hundred small factories, with livelihoods closely tied to silverware production. Prada's interest in Hupari anklets could benefit the local craft industry by generating international demand, restoring pride and creating much-needed economic opportunities for the artisan community in the region.

Such a partnership could take Hupari's intricate filigree work from its local markets to global runways, offering visibility and premium positioning that may be unattainable through domestic sales alone.

▸ Cultural capital, Page 2

Quickly

With no ceasefire, Trump eyes peace pact

US President Donald Trump failed to secure a Ukraine war ceasefire at a high-stakes summit with Russia's President Vladimir Putin but insisted on Saturday that he would now target a full peace agreement to end the conflict. Three hours of talks between the White House and Kremlin leaders at an Alaska air base produced no breakthrough but Trump and European leaders said they wanted a new summit that includes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Details on Page 3

Inspector, SI arrested while taking bribe

The Lokayukta police on Saturday arrested Ramamurthy Nagar inspector and two others on charges of bribery. Officials said the arrested are Rajshekar (48) the inspector, Ruman Pasha (32) a sub-inspector and Imran Babu (32), a private person.

Details on Page 4

ED raids TN Minister Periyasamy

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday searched multiple premises linked to Tamil Nadu Minister and DMK leader I Periyasamy and his MLA son as part of a money laundering investigation, official sources said. The raids were undertaken in Chennai and Dindigul under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Details on Page 8

NCERT: Jinnah, Cong, Mountbatten behind Partition

A special module released by the NCERT to mark "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" has held Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Congress and then Viceroy Lord Mountbatten responsible for India's partition. The module has also noted that post-Partition, Kashmir emerged as a new problem, which had never existed in India before and created a challenge for the country's foreign policy.

Details on Page 3

Shubhanshu to return to India today

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to return to India on Sunday after his historic visit to the International Space Station (ISS) and is eager to share his experiences with friends and colleagues back home as ISRO eyes its maiden human spaceflight in 2027.

Trailer launch of 'The Bengal Files' stopped

The Kolkata police on Saturday stopped the trailer launch of 'The Bengal Files', based on the 1946 Calcutta Riots, its director Vivek Agnihotri claimed. The trailer of the film was slated to be screened at a five-star hotel.

Details on Page 9

5 dead in Nagarthpet godown fire

Five people were killed on Saturday after a fire broke out at a building housing a goods shop and a godown in Nagarthpet in central Bengaluru. The deceased are identified as Madan Kumar (38), his wife Sangeetha (33) and two children Mitesh (8) and Vihan (5) and their neighbour Suresh Kumar (26).

Details on Page 3

Structured employment needed

Rehabilitation from Page 1

Some enrolled their own sons and daughters in professional colleges in Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, London and New York. They stayed safe, built careers and aged comfortably. It was boys like Jabbar, Ishfaq, and Farooq who have paid in prison years and in endless social exile.

The Ikhwan

By the mid-1990s, many surrendered militants were channelled into an authority that Kashmir would never forget: The Ikhwan. This was a pro-government militia, led by Kuka Parray (formerly a singer and later a Member of the Legislative Assembly). The group was armed and trained by the Army and police and was given unencumbered allowance to operate in the Valley.

The Ikhwan, in these years, earned a reputation for carrying out large-scale human rights violations, extortion and creating terror among locals in Kashmir.

A 1998 Human Rights Watch report stated that Ikhwan was responsible for severe human rights violations, including executions, enforced disappearances, torture, and unlawful detention.

"The government uses the groups principally to assassinate and intimidate members of militant organisations and political groups, especially the banned pro-Pakistan party Jamaat-e-Islami," the report reads.

Villagers spoke of incidents in which women were assaulted, families faced extortion, and land was taken by force. Shops were looted, and young men were beaten in front of relatives.

The line between counterinsurgency and personal grievance grew increasingly blurred in these years. "They were given a free hand," says a retired police officer from Bandipora. "And when that hand turned violent, no one stepped in," he adds.

When militancy ebbed in the early 2000s, the Ikhwan was quietly disbanded. All connections with its members, once celebrated as assets, were quietly cut off. Many were hunted down and killed in revenge attacks by militants; others lived like pariahs, unwelcome in the same villages they once ruled with terror.

"We were used and thrown away like tissue paper," says Ayoub*, a former Ikhwani whose brother was gunned down in retaliation. In the public memory of the people of Kashmir, their faces remain clear, and the shadow of the Ikhwan's still remains.

Broken promises

Over the years, there have been many policies to encourage those who get recruited into militancy to give up arms. The first surrender policy was put forth in 1995, under Governor K V Krishna Rao, who promised a Rs 1.5 lakh fixed deposit, Rs 1,800 a month, and vocational training. However, this promise was far from realised and most who surrendered never saw the benefits. Many were absorbed into Ikhwan instead and were forced to trade one war for another.

A 2004 policy under Governor N N Vohra added weapon incentives and a delayed payout after good conduct, but payments lagged, and jobs were scarce.

The 2010 policy tried to bring back militants from Pakistan-administered areas, but bureaucratic roadblocks left many without identity papers, ration cards, or livelihoods. The latest was a 2019 policy. The 1995 scheme was revised to offer Rs 6 lakh, training, and stipends, but excluded hardcore militants.

Ensuring that rehabilitation policies are effective is key. Major General (retd) Harsha Kakar, in his *ORF* column "Why Kashmir Needs Much More Than Surrender Appeals", emphasises that surrendered militants must be given security, relocated, and provided timely financial assistance to prevent their return to militancy.

"Harassment should be minimal, employment offered at the earliest, and policies strictly implemented and monitored by the Centre. Most joined for financial reasons. Timely support can deter a relapse into militancy and encourage others to surrender," he wrote.

The reality is that even though such policies remain in place, they are implemented poorly. "I surrendered almost three decades back, but the promised money and job never came, even after trying to avail the scheme multiple times," Jabbar says. "All I wanted was a normal life, but even that seems out of reach," he says.

Social rejection is even sharper. Faheem*, son of a surrendered militant, still remembers his girlfriend's parents rejecting his marriage proposal because of his father's history. "We were educated people. I had a good job, everything. But her family still thought of us as cursed," he says.

A former militant explains that continued suspicion has also extended the social exile. "Every time something happens in the area, they call me in," he says. "They check my phone, my house. I have been clean for twenty years, but it does not matter."

Recycled violence

Security experts warn that failure to reintegrate ex-militants is not just a moral issue, it is a strategic blind spot.

"If we fail to properly reintegrate surrendered militants, we leave the door open for them to be exploited again by militant recruiters, political actors, or even criminal gangs," a senior police officer tells *DH*. "Rehabilitation is not just a moral responsibility, it is a security imperative."

A stark example is Abbas Sheikh, who first joined Hizbul Mujahideen in the 1990s, was arrested and released multiple times. He rejoined militancy in the 2010s and rose to become chief of The Resistance Front (TRF), believed to be a Lashkar-e-Taiba front. Sheikh revived militancy in Srinagar before being killed in 2021.

"There is always a danger when people feel they have no stake in peace," says a senior police officer. "We monitor them because of that. But the solution is not just surveillance, it is support," he adds.

Some ex-militants slip into narcotics smuggling or petty crime, not out of ideology but desperation. "No one will give them a job... It is a recipe for instability," says a local social worker.

A lost generation

Kashmir's conflict has no shortage of victims — widows, orphans, and the wounded. But among the least acknowledged are the men who walked away from violence only to find the road ahead barred.

"Everyone wants peace in Kashmir," says Dr Farrukh Faheem, who teaches at the University of Kashmir's Institute of Kashmir Studies. "But peace also means giving space to those who renounced violence. You cannot build a new society by burying the past and those who lived it."

Many live with injuries — shattered knees, lost fingers, bad lungs from years in hiding. Others bear the invisible damage of torture, of betrayal, of isolation.

Few have ever been offered counselling or meaningful help. In the post-Article 370 push for tourism, elections, and development, surrendered militants are invisible. They are not part of the speeches, the slogans, or the plans.

Some experts argue for reopening rehabilitation talks, issuing identity papers to those who returned from across the LoC, and creating structured employment schemes. Others say Kashmir needs a truth-and-reconciliation process, one that confronts the Ikhwan era, state complicity, and the full, messy reality of the past.

Until then, the cycle will go on in the same orchards, with weapons and boys who are too young to know the consequences of the decisions they are making.

"When we picked up the gun, we thought we were fighting for tomorrow," Jabbar says quietly. "Now, tomorrow does not even have a place for us."

*(*Names changed on request)*

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

GUNS DOWN

Surrender in J&K over the years

- The highest number of surrenders in J&K was in the mid-1990s.
- Surrenders decreased after 2010 as four entry points were demarcated for returnees in the surrender policy. Many preferred other entry points.
- In the last decade, number of surrendered militants dwindled due to fear of retribution, lack of rehabilitation and shrinking trust.

SURRENDER POLICIES

1st surrender policy (1995)

The policy offered ex-militants an FD of **Rs 1.5 lakh**, a monthly stipend of **Rs 1,800** and **vocational training**. Surrendered militants were trained to be part of the Ikhwan Force, a pro-government militia.

2nd surrender policy (2004)

Both militants with weapons, and hardcore militants, could avail **Rs 1.5 lakh** (claimed 3 years after surrender), **Rs 2,000** monthly for three years and incentives for surrender of weapons and ammunition. Many surrendered fighters were absorbed into the central paramilitary forces and the Territorial Army.

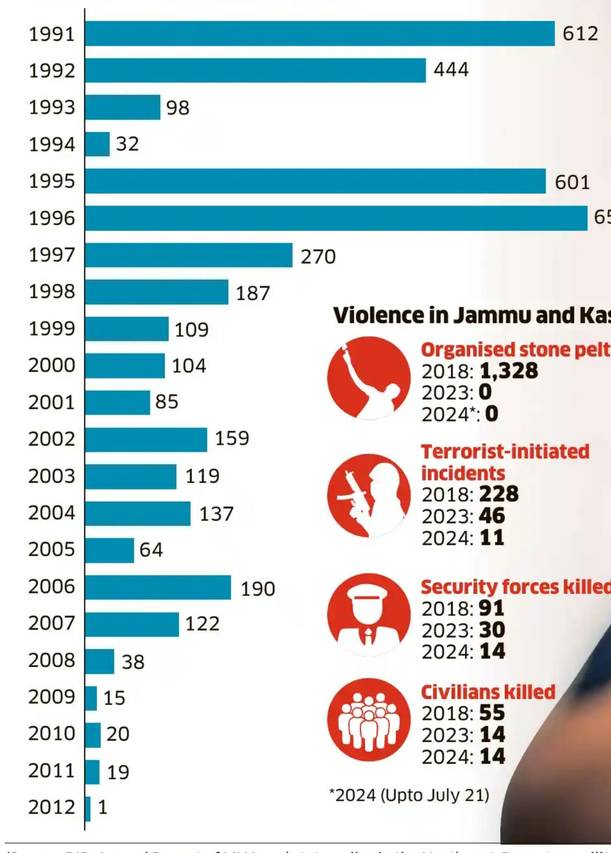
3rd surrender policy (2010)

Ex-militants from J&K and those who had crossed over to PoK or to Pakistan but eventually quit were eligible. Ex-militants' Pakistani wives, children, and other dependents were considered for entry as well.

4th surrender policy (2019)

Revisions to the policy were made by the government in 2019, but not implemented. The draft policy included a **Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000** monthly stipend but hardcore militants were excluded. Returning militants were entitled for an FD of **Rs 5 lakh or Rs 6 lakh,** contingent on good behaviour.

4,081 militants surrendered in J&K between 1990 and 2012



Violence in Jammu and Kashmir

Organised stone pelting
2018: **1,328**
2023: **0**
2024*: **0**

Terrorist-initiated incidents
2018: **228**
2023: **46**
2024: **11**

Security forces killed
2018: **91**
2023: **30**
2024: **14**

Civilians killed
2018: **55**
2023: **14**
2024: **14**

*2024 (Upto July 21)

Militants surrendered in the Northeast

ASSAM

NDFB*
- Year: 2020
- Cadres: 4,881
- Weapons: 178

Karbi groups
- Year: 2021
- Cadres: 1,926
- Weapons: 326

Adivasi groups
- Year: 2022
- Cadres: 1,182
- Weapons: 304

ULFA
- Year: Dec 2023
- Cadres: 852
- Weapons: 161

DNLA*
- Year: 2023
- Cadres: 181
- Weapons: 43

*NDFB: National Democratic Front of Bodoland

*ULFA: United Liberation Front of Asom

* DNLA: Disama National Liberation Army

TRIPURA

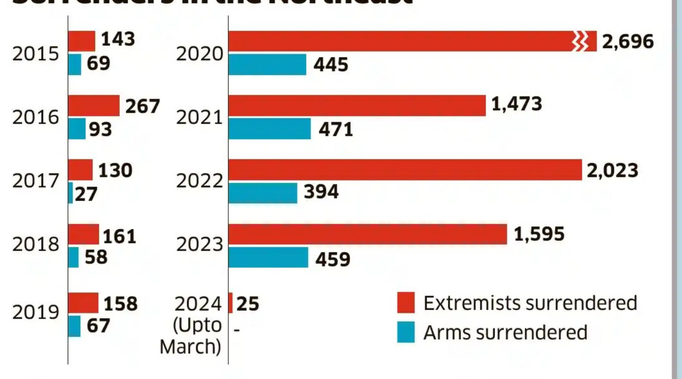
National Liberation Front of Tripura, All Tripura Tiger Force
- Year: 2024
- Cadres: 328
- Weapons: 168

Most insurgent groups in Manipur and Nagaland are yet to sign an agreement with the government.

Rehabilitation schemes in the Northeast

- Until 2018, the surrender scheme offered **Rs 1.5 lakh** as a one-time payment, **Rs 3,500** per month for three years and employment support.
- Under the scheme revised in 2018, ex-militants could get **Rs 4 lakh** as a one-time FD for three years, **Rs 6,000** per month for three years, incentives for deposit of weapons/ ammunition, vocational training for self-employment.

Surrenders in the Northeast



* The increase in insurgency-related violence in 2023 was primarily due to ethnic strife in Manipur

(Source: PIB, Annual Report of MHA and state police in the Northeast, Report on militancy compiled by State Home Ministry, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Lok Sabha Question, Home Ministry, Observer Research Foundation)

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI**
DH GRAPHIC: **SAGAR M S**

From militancy to mainstream in the Northeast

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Tarani Baishya grips the steering wheel of his ambulance today as firmly as he once held guns in his youth. A former cadre of the now-disbanded United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), an insurgent group, Baishya now drives an ambulance near Gauhati Medical College Hospital.

"Life after surrender has been very tough. It is still difficult today, as managing the expenses for the education of my two sons with the income from an ambulance is hard," he says.

Many of the benefits promised before his surrender did not materialise. "I made rounds of government offices for more than a year. I did not get any help. So, I finally opened a bicycle-repair shop at Tamulpur. But that did not progress," says Baishya, now 56.

Baishya joined the ULFA in 1992 and remained in the group's 'general headquarters' in Bhutan until he surrendered in 2003. Months later, India and Bhutan launched Operation All Clear, flushing out camps of the ULFA and the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT), another dreaded rebel group.

After spending 11 years in the jungles, Baishya returned to his home in Laopara village in Tamulpur, now a district under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), only to find himself helpless.

In 2008, he shifted to Guwahati, about 60 km away, in search of work, where he started a pan (betel leaf) shop. Later, he bought an ambulance.

As militancy peaked and wreaked havoc across Assam, the Centre introduced a special scheme in 1998 that provided financial assistance to surrendered militants. "I did not get any benefit," he says.

Pranjit Saikia, who joined the ULFA in 1984, five years after its formation, was arrested in 2010 and released a few months later.

Saikia did not wait for government support to restart his life. "Many of our colleagues got engaged in contracts. I decided to do something on my own, not only for myself but for many others," says Saikia, a resident of Mangaldoi in Darrang district.

Along with a few senior members and leaders of the ULFA, he started a cooperative and took up agriculture and horticulture activities on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Mangaldoi. "Some Assam police officers helped us to take our mission forward into mainstream life," says Saikia, who later shifted to Guwahati.

More than 400 local residents in Mangaldoi, including 28 former ULFA members, have been employed under such cooperative societies.

"What I have seen is that the amount of support being given to former members of ULFA or any other similar groups is not sufficient. If we do not provide proper support to the former militants, those who are still in the jungles will not be encouraged to join the mainstream," says Saikia.

Pallab Bhattacharyya, an IPS officer who served in the Assam Police between 1986 and 2019, explains that a scheme meant for the rehabilitation of former militants through skill-based training played a crucial role when violent activities by ULFA, BLT, NDFB (National Democratic Front of Bodoland), ethnic, and left-wing extremist groups made life difficult across Assam.

"Some former militants progressed, but some are still struggling with the realities of mainstream society. The scheme successfully integrated many former militants into the mainstream. Even officials from some other states visited us to adopt the Assam model for the rehabilitation of former militants," he adds.

However, some surrendered militants, particularly from the lower ranks, still face challenges in finding sustainable livelihoods. "Their potential must be channelled productively to ensure that every surrendered militant can secure a meaningful vocation. I personally feel that the Skill India initiative should be actively leveraged to bridge this gap," says Bhattacharyya, who retired as Special Director General of Assam Police (Special Branch), which looks after the rehabilitation of former militants.

Scan the QR code to read more

Militancy-free Northeast

With the Narendra Modi government promising a militancy-free Northeast, the Centre in 2018 revised the scheme for surrendered militants by enhancing financial incentives. This included an increase in one-time support from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 4 lakh and the monthly assistance from Rs 3,500 to Rs 6,000 for three years, besides providing livelihood support.

Hiren Chandra Nath, the Additional Director General of Assam Police (Special Branch), tells *DH* that the schemes and counter-insurgency measures taken by the government led to the surrender of over 9,000 cadres under agreements signed since 2020.

"Apart from this, 2,080 cadres of smaller groups who surrendered unconditionally got Rs 1.50 lakh each as a rehabilitation grant under the Swabalamban Scheme," he adds. Over the past five years, 11,102 cadres have been provided with rehabilitation support.

"Most of them have received the one-time grant. They are now engaged in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, entrepreneurship, and tourism activities. Some have taken up activities on their own with the help of the Special Branch," he says.

Most militant groups that have signed agreements since 2020 are from Assam and Tripura. A former leader of the National Liberation Front of Tripura says that some former militants were engaged in rubber cultivation and tourism, but did not progress due to a lack of sufficient support.

Cultural capital from Page 1

Contractual arrangements can become extractive, with brands exploiting cultural capital

A tie-up with Prada could also help address long-standing challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited investment and the need for design innovation in line with global trends. Yet beneath the optimism lies a persistent question: Are such partnerships genuine steps toward empowering Indian craftspeople, or do they merely enrich global giants while leaving local artisans with little real protection?

To answer this, it is important to understand the rights available to Hupari's artisans. The centuries-old Kolhapuri footwear design is also protected under the GI Act.

While the allegations of inspiration or appropriation may have had merit, they do not hold firm legal ground under the GI Act.

The GI law prohibits third-party manufacturers from creating a false link between a product and its original location. Its core purpose is to protect the name, not the product itself. Under current law, no one can prevent another individual or business from practising an age-old craft or selling items that resemble GI-protected products, provided the protected name is not used.

For example, a seller can market Hupari-style silver anklets without calling them 'Hupari anklets' in India or elsewhere.

Furthermore, like most intellectual property rights, GI protection is territorial. A GI registered in India is valid only within India. Indian law does not provide extraterritorial protection. If a foreign brand sells a product protected under Indian GI law in another country, the artisans cannot rely on Indian law. They would need to seek separate GI registrations abroad. This means that, currently, the Hupari silver products do not enjoy any GI/IP protection beyond India.

However, there is an international system in place to file GI applications in foreign jurisdictions through the Lisbon agreement. The agreement facilitates the filing of GI applications through registration in the home country.

However, India is currently not a member of this agreement. As a result, Indian GI owners will have to file GI applications separately in foreign jurisdictions. For many producer associations, this may not be feasible.

The practicalities

In practice, intellectual property rights are enforced mainly through contracts. Any benefit-sharing arrangement between Prada and Hupari artisans would depend on the contractual terms agreed upon.

Many of the silver artisans may lack experience in negotiating contracts involving royalties from sales. If a Prada-Hupari partnership is executed without genuine shared decision-making and fair economic benefits, it risks disproportionately favouring Prada or other luxury brands over the artisans.

Under current law, the artisans may have no valid legal claim to protect their interests. Such arrangements can also become extractive, with the brand exploiting cultural capital and artisanal skill while retaining control over design, marketing and profits. The absence of shared power in such collaborations also threatens the authenticity of artisan crafts. This can undermine artisans' creative freedom, cultural expression and ownership of their work. When brands dominate decision-making, artisans may be reduced to the role of mere producers.

Market-driven designs can displace traditional techniques and the symbolic meanings embedded in the craft, diluting cultural nuance. Poor communication of rights, vague design briefs and lack of mutual respect can further result in products that fail to reflect the true value of the craft, reducing it to a superficial aesthetic rather than preserving its intangible heritage.

In the long run, the government should ensure that it is undertaking programmes to spread awareness about GI and other intellectual property laws to safeguard both the art and the artisans.

In the wake of Indian artistic products gaining global interest, it is also time that India considers signing international treaties, like the Lisbon agreement, to facilitate the easier filing of GI beyond the borders of India.

It is also crucial that any Prada-Hupari collaboration be built on transparent, legally binding mechanisms for shared governance and economic returns. This is essential to avoid perpetuating inequalities and to truly uplift the Hupari community.

(Sundar Athreya H is assistant professor at the KIIT School of Law, and Abhilasha Rathore is a senior associate at Mettle Legal)

Ukraine must make deal, Russia big power: Trump

US Prez says close to deal but talks with Putin yield no ceasefire

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW/KYIV, AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday Ukraine should make a deal to end the war with Russia because "Russia is a very big power, and they're not", after hosting a summit with President Vladimir Putin that failed to yield a ceasefire.

In a major shift, Trump also said he had agreed with Putin that negotiators should go straight to a peace settlement - not via a ceasefire, as Ukraine and its European allies, until now with US support, have been demanding.

After the summit, Trump told Ukraine's leader that Putin offered to freeze the frontlines elsewhere if Kyiv agreed to withdraw from the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions, a person familiar with the matter said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would travel to Washington on Monday, while Kyiv's European allies welcomed Trump's efforts but vowed to back Ukraine and tighten sanctions on Russia.

Trump rolled out the red carpet on Friday for Putin, who was in the US for the first time in a decade and since the start of his full-scale invasion of Ukraine. But he gave little concrete detail afterward of what was discussed. On Saturday, he posted on social media that it "went very well".

"It was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a Peace Agreement, which would end the war, and not a mere Ceasefire, which often times do not hold up," Trump posted on Truth Social.

That statement will be welcomed in Moscow, which says it wants a full settlement, not a pause, but that this will be complex because positions are "diametrically opposed".

Russia's forces have been gradually advancing for months. The war has killed or wounded well over a million people from both sides, including thousands of mostly Ukrainian civilians, according to analysts.

Before the summit, Trump had said he would not be happy unless a ceasefire was agreed on. But afterwards he said that, after his talks with Zelenskyy, "if all works out, we will then schedule a meeting with President Putin".

Zelenskyy said after speaking to Trump that he supported the three-way meeting.

But Putin signalled no movement in Russia's long-held positions on the war, and made no mention of meeting Zelenskyy.

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity, Trump signalled that he and Putin had discussed land transfers and security guarantees for Ukraine, and had "largely agreed".

"I think we're pretty close to a deal," he said, adding: "Ukraine has to agree to it. Maybe they'll say 'no'."

Asked what he would advise Zelenskyy to do, Trump said: "Gotta make a deal." "Look, Russia is a very big power, and they're not," he added.

Putin, who has hitherto opposed foreign involvement in keeping the peace, said he agreed with Trump that Ukraine's security must be "ensured".

"I would like to hope that the understanding we have reached will allow us to get closer to that goal and open the way to peace in Ukraine," Putin told a briefing where neither leader took questions.

GEOPOLITICAL GAMES
US Prez says he and Putin discussed land transfers and security guarantees for Ukraine, and had "largely agreed"
Trump says they are "pretty close to a deal" and "Ukraine has to agree to it"
Later, Trump says best way to end war is via a peace deal and not a mere cease-fire agreement, a big shift in position
Putin reportedly wants Ukraine to withdraw from the eastern Donetsk region
In exchange for Donetsk, Putin says he would freeze the frontline in the regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia
Kyiv's European allies welcome Trump's efforts but vow to back Ukraine and tighten sanctions on Russia
Following the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says he would travel to Washington to meet Trump on Monday
I would like to hope that the understanding we have reached will allow us to get closer to that goal and open the way to peace in Ukraine
VLADIMIR PUTIN, Russian President
It was determined by all that the best way to end the war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a Peace Agreement, which would end the war, and not a mere ceasefire
DONALD TRUMP, US President

Secondary tariff relief for India on cards?

NEW YORK, PTI: President Donald Trump has indicated that the US may not impose secondary tariffs on countries continuing to procure Russia crude oil.

There were apprehensions that additional secondary tariffs would have hit India in case the US decided to enforce them.

"Well, he (Russian President Vladimir Putin) lost an oil client, so to speak, which is India, which was doing about 40% of the oil. China, as you know, is doing a lot... And if I did what's called a secondary sanction, or a secondary tariff, it would be very devastating from their standpoint. If I have to do it, I'll do it. Maybe I won't have to do it," Trump said on Friday in an interview.

Just 1% govt hospitals meet fire safety norms

Pvt hospitals no better; only 5% compliant

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Less than 1% of the government hospitals and only close to 5% of private hospitals in the state have complied with fire safety norms, according to data presented by the health department in the Legislative Council.

The lack of fire safety measures puts the lives of thousands of patients at risk. Data showed that only 14 of the 2,878 government hospitals and 315 of the 5,850 private hospitals in the state abide by fire safety norms.

In the last five years, fire accidents have been reported at four government hospitals and three private hospitals.

Senior officials from the health department told *DH* that a primary assessment has shown that the department would need Rs 600 crore to upgrade government hospitals to meet fire compliance standards and work will be taken up in phases. "We have also asked officials to prioritise health establishments based on risks and work will be taken up at such places soon," Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (health department), told *DH*.

Gupta added that many of those which have not complied with the norms are buildings less than 15 metres high and the risks in such buildings are relatively low.

The department has also decided not to renew licences of private hospitals that have failed to follow fire safety norms.

"We do ask for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the fire safety department when a private hospital applies to register under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act," he said.

▸ Hospitals, Page 4B

Fire accidents in hospitals in last 5 years

PVT HOSPITALS	GOVT HOSPITALS
Sept 19, 2024 MS Ramaiah Hospital, Bengaluru	March 2, 2023 Chitradurga District hospital
Sept 23, 2024 Dhanvantari Ayurveda Hospital, Udupi	Dec 13, 2024 Davangere Dist hospital
Nov 1, 2024 Spandana Hospital, Chikkamagaluru	Jan 6, 2022 a taluk hospital in Koppal
	April 14, 2024 Government Hospital in Shivamogga

Compliance with fire safety rules
14 out of 2,878 Government hospitals
315 out of 5,850 Pvt hospitals

4 of family, including 2 kids, among 5 killed in building fire

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Five people, including four of a family with two children, were killed in a fire at a multi-storied building housing a goods shop and a godown in central Bengaluru's Nagarthpet on Saturday. Seventeen others managed to escape unhurt, averting a major tragedy.

The deceased are Madan Kumar Purohit (36), his wife Sangeeta Kanwar (32), their two children Mithesh (8) and Vihan (5) and neighbour Suresh Kumar (26). They were all natives of Rajasthan. Madan rented and worked in the ground floor unit in his shop Madan Steels, while Suresh worked and slept in the godown on the second floor.

The fire, suspected to have been triggered by an electric short-circuit, broke out a little after 3 am on the ground floor of the ground-plus-four storied building on a 36x57 ft plot in the narrow Rajanna Lane in Thigalarpet in Nagarathpet. The fire control room received the distress call at 3.15 am and immediately dispatched over five water bowsers.

They, however, faced a challenge as the vehicles couldn't approach the building due to the narrow lane, not wider than four metres. Since there was no water supply, 100-metre-long pipes had to be connected to the vehicles and brought close to the site to douse the fire, multiple firefighters on the ground told *DH*. The narrow 1.5-feet-wide staircase further hampered rescue.

The first body to be recovered was that of Madan, who was charred to death on the ground floor. Officers said Madan was working overnight, while his wife and two children were asleep in their locked house on the third floor. The three are suspected to have died of asphyxiation in their sleep before being burned by the blaze.

Suresh, who was asleep on the second floor, was subsequently found dead. "There were seven others on the second floor who managed to escape. There were 10 more on the fourth floor who escaped through the terrace.

The godown contained rubber mats and clothes covered in plastic wrappings, among other items, that were stacked one above the other, leading to the fire spreading quickly," a senior firefighter from the spot told *DH*.

▸ Fire, Page 4B

Firemen at the building in Nagarthpet, where a fire broke out on Saturday. DH PHOTO

3-yr-old Dharwad boy dies in fire

A three-and-a-half-year-old boy died in an accidental fire while his father suffered serious burn injuries in Dharwad on Saturday. The incident is reported from Santosh Nagar on Kelgeri road in Dharwad.

EC faults parties ahead of today's unprecedented press meet

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission will hold an unprecedented press conference on Sunday, a day on which the I.N.D.I.A bloc launches its 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, even as the poll body sought to find fault with the parties for the inaccuracies in the voters lists saying if they had raised issues, it could have been addressed earlier.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and two Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi will address the media and are expected to speak about the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar and allegations of the EC colluding with BJP for stealing votes.

The EC usually conducts press conferences only to announce the poll schedule.

The EC said the appropriate time to raise any issue with the electoral rolls would have been during the Claims and Objections period after publication of the draft list but the EC "continues to welcome the scrutiny by parties and any elector".

It will help Electoral Registration Officers, usually a Sub Divisional Magistrate-level officer, to remove errors, it said.

▸ EC, Page 4B

NISAR antenna deployed, satellite all set for data collection

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Seventeen days after the launch of the Nasa-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite, the drum-shaped antenna reflector weighing 64 kg on-board NISAR was successfully deployed, setting the stage for the satellite to start data collection.

The reflector had been stowed, umbrella-like, until the nine-metre boom that supports it, could be deployed and locked in place, Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a statement.

Details on Page 8

Death toll in Pakistan floods mounts to 327 in 48 hours

PESHAWAR, PTI: The death toll from the recent flash floods in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa rose to over 300, with those killed also including 13 children, provincial authorities said on Saturday.

Torrential rains, which triggered flash floods in various districts of the province, are expected to continue intermittently until August 21, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

PDMA Spokesman Faizi said that in the past 48 hours, 327 people were killed by the devastating rains, cloud bursts and flash floods.

Relief funds have been released for flood-hit districts.

Details on Page 10

32 sub-registrar offices yet to report high-value transactions

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite repeated notices and warnings from the income tax department, at least 32 sub-registrars in the state have not reported high value transactions of immovable properties.

These include sub-registrars of Byatarayanapura, Banashankari, Gandhinagar, Yelahanka, Basavanagudi and BDA in Bengaluru jurisdiction. Following this, the Directorate of Intelligence and Criminal Investigation, Income Tax department, has written to the Chief Secretary.

The copy of the communication accessed by *DH* reads, "This letter is to bring to your kind notice the continued non-compliance of the statutory requirement of reporting high value transactions in immovable properties by some sub-registrars, which has wider ramifications in terms of collection of tax due to the Central government and for extending timely taxpayer services."

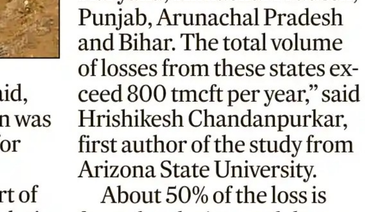
The I-T department states that sub-registrars are mandated to furnish a statement of financial transactions (SFT) on immovable properties exceeding Rs 30 lakh to the income tax department.

"This requirement is aimed at promoting non-intrusive tax administration and voluntary compliance by taxpayers and to achieve the twin goals of widening and deepening the tax base.

As on date, 32 sub-registrars have not filed the SFT for the reporting period 2024-25," the letter stated.

▸ Sub-registrar, Page 4B

List of sub-registrar offices



BDA, Rajajinagar, Gubbi, Pavagada, Byatarayanapura, Somwarpet, Basavanagudi, Gandhinagar, Nelamangala, Kolar, Madikeri, Devanahalli, Chintamani, Malur, Yelahanka, Doddaballapur, Mulbagal, Mysuru South, Madhugiri, Chikkanayakanahalli, Nagarabhavi, Attibele, Sarjapur, Mahadevapura, JP Nagar, Banashankari, Hebbal, Bangarpet, Tarikere, Mysuru East, Kushalnagar, KGF.

Cong, Jinnah, Mounbatten responsible for Partition: NCERT

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Congress and Mountbatten were the three main actors responsible for Partition, according to a newly released module for students by the NCERT.

A livid Congress called for the burning of such books.

In the special modules released to mark the Partition Remembrance Day, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has published that the birth of Pakistan could have been avoided and is the result of three key actors.

"There were three elements responsible for the Partition of India: Jinnah, who demanded it; second, the Congress, which accepted it; and third, Mountbatten, who implemented it," the special module says.

The module also quotes Jawaharlal Nehru as saying: "We have come to a stage when we must either accept division or face continued conflict and chaos. Partition is bad. But whatever the price of unity, the price of civil war would be infinitely greater."

These modules are not textbooks but are an addition to them. One of these modules is designed for Classes 6 to 8, and the other is for Classes 9 to 12. The module also says that both Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel eventually accepted Partition to avoid the possibility of a civil war.

Mahatma Gandhi, who was opposed to the idea of Partition, too, gave up.

"In fact, Nehru and Patel accepted Partition due to the fear of civil war. Upon their agreeing, Mahatma Gandhi, also gave up his opposition...," it notes.

▸ NCERT, Page 4B

ALARMING

'N India losing over 700 tmcft of water a year'

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

North India has been losing over 700 thousand million cubic ft of water every year in the last two decades, making it one of the global hotspots for the loss of terrestrial water storage (TWS), an international team of scientists has found using US satellite data.

Agriculturally crucial Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, along with Rajasthan and a few north-eastern states, have been losing groundwater at an unprecedented rate, scientists said, adding the monsoon rain was inadequate to make up for the loss.

These findings are part of a new satellite-based analysis of global freshwater storage over the last two decades that shows every continent has experienced unprecedented drying since 2002.

"India has lost about 15,400 tmcft of water since 2002. The biggest losses are seen in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar. The total volume of losses from these states exceed 800 tmcft per year," said Hrishikesh Chandanpurkar, first author of the study from Arizona State University.

About 50% of the loss is from the glaciers and the remaining 50% is from human activities and the changing climate.

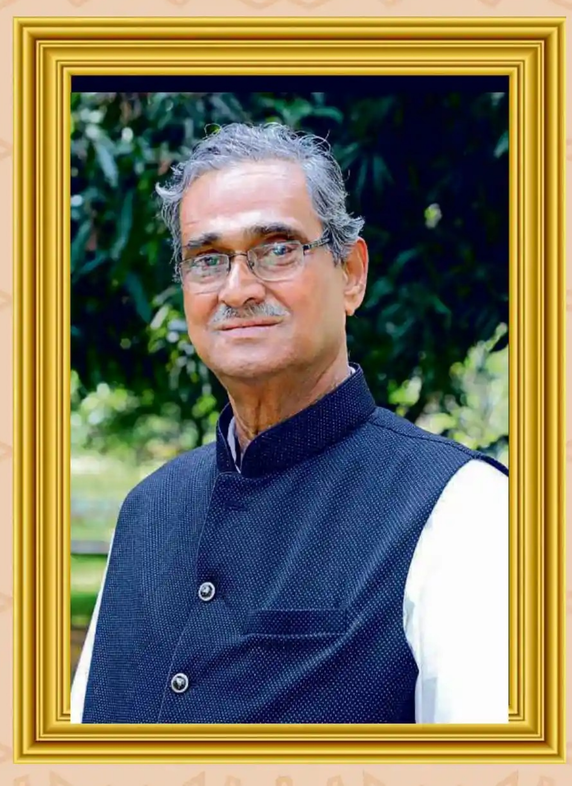
▸ Water, Page 8

URGENT COACHING VACANCIES
BCCI Level 0 / Level 1 / Level 2

Former cricketer Robin Singh Cricket Academy, Dubai, on behalf of Robin Sports Academy LLC, invites applications for coaching positions in UAE and England.

Open Positions: Level 0 / Level 1 Coaches, Level 2 Coaches
LOCATIONS: UAE (Dubai), England
Key Details: Visa: Provided Contract: Compulsory 2-year contract
SALARY: Level 0 / Level 1: up to AED 3500 per month
Level 2: up to AED 6500 per month.
CANDIDATE PROFILE:
Former cricketer with coaching certification aligned in the level applied for, English speaking and writing skills are mandatory.
HOW TO APPLY:
Send your profile (CV) and coaching/certification documents to: admin@rsrprogram.com
Note: Immediate openings with UAE and England postings Shortlisting on the basis of qualifications, experience, and formal certifications.
Sd/- Robin Sports Academy LLC, Dubai

2nd Death Anniversary
An educator & visionary, who transformed lives and continues to inspire us all



Sri K. Muniswamy Raju
DOB: 15.06.1943 | DOD: 17.08.2023
Founder & President
M S Engineering College, Bengaluru
In Loving Memory
Family, Friends, Management, Staff & Students

PLUG THE LOOPHOLE

B'luru all charged up for EVs, but lax charging infra gives buyers a shock

2-wheelers sales dip slowly; e-autos, 4-wheelers find more takers

ASRA MAVAD & AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following an upward trend in the Electric Vehicle (EV) market in Karnataka over the last few years, a palpable shift in market trends has been noticed in recent times.

While the state is slowly seeing a decline in registrations of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers are seeing a sharp rise.

Sales rose from 1.7 lakh in 2023-24 to 1.73 lakh in 2024-25, mainly driven by electric two-wheeler purchases.

Despite this, for the first time since electric vehicles took off in the state, electric two-wheeler registrations saw a decline — from 1.4 lakh in 2023-24 to 1.3 lakh in 2024-25.

The state's EV penetration in the financial year 2025-26 is 9.38% compared to the national average of 7.49%. A majority of the sales are concentrated in Bengaluru.

Electric three-wheelers have witnessed record sales, with over 5,000 registrations in 2024-25.

Registrations of electric four-wheelers are also seeing a slow, but steady rise, from 10,300 in 2023-24 to 12,200 in 2024-25.

There are a total of 468 charging stations across Karnataka, with Bescom accounting for 208. Bengaluru accounts for the maximum number of charging stations.

However, citizens said most of the charging stations, even private ones, in the city were either not operational or poorly maintained.

Out of 10 petrol bunks in south and central Bengaluru, only 3 had EV charging facilities, but none of them were operational when *DH* paid a visit.

To make matters worse, the state government dropped the plan to set up 2,500 public EV charging stations earlier this year.

The market trajectory is not developing favourably and poor EV infrastructure is to blame, an urban mobility expert told *DH*.

"That's not a good sign. It is understandable that people are moving away from electric vehicles as the government has done nothing to boost confidence in them. The EV charging infrastructure in the city is almost non-existent. If the government, both state and central, want to latch on to global trends and move away from diesel and petrol vehicles, they need to shift their priority to developing charging infrastructure," he said.

Similar sentiment echoes amongst Bengaluru's EV owners. Sowmya R, a Nagarabhavi resident, sold her electric four-wheeler in late 2024 due to lack of EV charging stations in and around the city.

"I had the car for about two years, and in those two years, I could not gain the confidence to travel even an hour outside city limits. Even within city, there have been multiple times when the car's charge would suddenly dip and I would zero in on a charging station, only to find it is not functional," she said.

One of the first few to adopt electric cars around 2010, Milan Vohra and her husband decided to sell their electric car almost six years later, for similar reasons.

"Back then, the market was not so developed and the car caused us several panic attacks. It remains the same even today," she said.

In contrast, electric bike and scooter owners, who rarely have to rely on public charging infrastructure, have mostly positive things to share.

Sachin prefers to use an EV within the city. "EVs are better because it gives more than 85 km of mileage after charging once in two days," he said.

Another e-bike owner, Shahi, prefers EVs, for their cost-efficiency. "It is much cheaper than petrol vehicles. My electricity bill has gone up by only Rs 300-Rs 350, whereas I used to spend Rs 1,000-1,200 on petrol every month," he said.

It would be ideal if a universal charging system were to be adopted by the various e-scooter manufacturers, as it would be useful in emergencies, said Kiran from Kasturinagar.

An EV mobility expert attributes the slowly stagnating EV market to lack of discounts and government subsidies also.

"When electric two-wheelers were initially launched, the government offered subsidies to encourage sales. The subsidies were offered up to Rs 15,000. Eventually, the government scaled back on subsidies, which might have led to a dip in sales," he said.

However, manufacturers believe sales of electric two-wheelers will pick up.

Rohin Nagarani, communication specialist with a leading EV brand, said, "We have seen a 64% increase in sales in the first half of 2025, compared to last year. The charging infrastructure, however, is not very supportive of EVs," he told *DH*. Another EV brand, River EV, has sold 5,000 units of its scooter, River Indie, so far this year.

Bescom has 208 charging stations, with Bengaluru accounting for the maximum number. But citizens say most of the charging stations, even private ones, in the city are either not operational or poorly maintained. DH PHOTO/PUSKAR V

In public transport

Auto drivers in the city are turning to EVs for greater profits. "The first electric auto I bought in 2024 had some issues with charging. A few months ago, I bought a newer version which charges fast, in about 15-20 minutes. Now, I'm making almost 30% more profit," said Manjunath Achari from Mathikere.

The BMTC is also doubling down on EVs. It went from 390 e-buses in 2024 to almost 1,800 in 2025. BMTC has EV charging facilities in 17 of its depots, with each charging 15-25 buses.

"We have charging stations at nine of our bus stations and an optimal charging facility at Kempegowda International Airport. E-buses are eco-friendly, have lower cost of operation and are very efficient," said G T Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC.

The last mile cell of BMRCL is planning to set up EV charging stations at all metro stations on the yellow line.

Centre must provide subsidies: Transport minister

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that for the EV market to take off, the central government must come out with adequate subsidies.

"It must provide subsidies for EV sales and invest in sustainable transport," he told *DH*.

Residents salvage their belongings, on Saturday, from houses that were severely damaged after Friday's cylinder blast at Chinnayyanapalya in Wilson Garden. DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA S

Of broken hearts and a shattered future after cylinder blast

Homes gone, residents pick up pieces a day after tragedy

SHRADDHA S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The cylinder blast in Wilson Garden on Friday morning displaced residents of 16 houses, injured nine, and claimed the life of eight-year-old Mubarak. The blast ripped through Chinnayyanapalya, a tightly-packed working-class neighborhood, devastating homes and families.

When *DH* visited the spot on Saturday, residents were still picking the pieces of the previous day's tragedy. They not only lost their homes, but valuables as well. A bleak future stared at them, they said in unison.

"It happened between 7.40 am and 8 am," said Mary, a resident and close friend of Kasthuri, who had bought the cylinder.

Mary recalled attempting to wake up Kasthuri earlier that morning, but leaving minutes before the explosion as she had to attend some work.

"We did not realise in which house the cylinder blast happened," Mary added, recounting that many people ran out, only to see their houses crumble in front of them.

Daniel, Mary's son, helped rescue Kasthuri and her daughter Kayal, who were both found charred under debris.

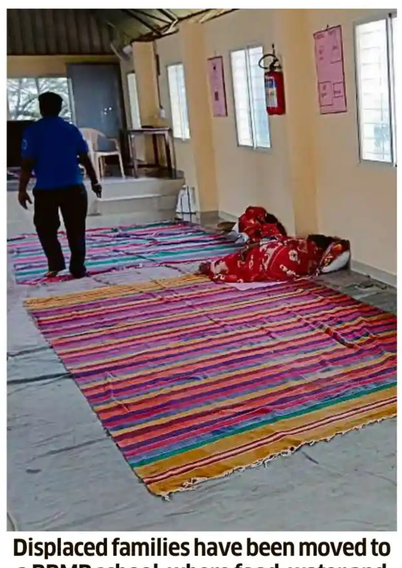
"I saw her hand sticking out from beneath a slab," he said, recounting how he, half asleep, pulled the mother and daughter out of the debris with the help of other residents.

Mubarak's house stood next to Kasthuri's. "If his mother had not come outside two minutes earlier, we would have lost her too," a neighbour said.

Rani, another resident, wept as she pointed to the rubble of her ancestral home.

"I have no valuables left, only memories of that house," she said, adding that most of the damages were caused to the houses that had asbestos sheet roofs.

"If only my house had a concretroof...," she said.



Displaced families have been moved to a BBMP school, where food, water and medical care are being provided. DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA S

Aiyappa, Kasthuri's husband, had left earlier in the day to his hometown on some work, returning late in the evening.

"They did not let me see my family because they are in the burns ward, but I am praying for their recovery," he said.

With help from the State Disaster Response Force and local residents, families are salvaging their belongings.

Since the houses were built close to each other, 25 houses were damaged, 16 severely.

R Muniyal, president of the residents' association, said Minister Ramalinga Reddy had promised to help rebuild homes.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has also announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the family of the deceased and Rs two lakh for those severely injured.

Displaced families have been moved to a BBMP school nearby, where food, water and medical care are being provided.

Among the injured is Sarasamma, 60, who lived behind the blast site. She suffered a crush injury and underwent a right-arm amputation at Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics. Her nephew visited her after coming to know about the incident.

Devotees throng city's ISKCON temples on Janmashtami

Hundreds of devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami at the ISKCON temple at Rajajinagar on Saturday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hundreds of devotees thronged ISKCON Bangalore to celebrate Sri Krishna Janmashtami at Hare Krishna Hill, Vaikuntha Hill and KTPO in Whitefield, on August 15 and 16.

The two-day event included abhishekas, aratis, chappan bhog, pushpanjali seva, pallakki utsav and jhulan seva for Lord Krishna at all three venues. There was a special offering of 108 delicacies.

ISKCON Sri Radha Krishna Mandir at Hare Krishna Hill and ISKCON Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple at Vaikuntha Hill were decorated with lights and festoons, creating a vibrant ambience marking the commencement of the Janmashtami festivities.

Among the who's who attended the celebrations were K H Muniyappa, Minister for Food and Civil Supply; Jaggesh, actor and Rajya Sabha member, and MLA Muniraju.

Actors Shruti, Dhruva Sarja were also seen amidst the crowd. The event at KTPO, Whitefield, with cultural performances like dance, music and shloka recitations received massive response. However, the highlight was musical performances by Carnatic singer Sid Sriram and Sadho, the band.

Three dead after KSRTC bus collides with parked truck

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three people died after a KSRTC bus collided with a parked truck on the outskirts of the city on Friday.

The accident occurred on National Highway 48 near Gundenahalli at around 3.30 am. The deceased are Seenappa (50), Nazeer Ahmed (36), and Anand (42).

According to the police, they were on the truck which was going towards Bengaluru from Mudhol. The truck contained livestock. Due to a flat tyre, the truck was forced to stop on the highway.

At the same time, the KSRTC bus coming on the way collided with the truck. A few people on the bus sustained minor injuries, police said. Further probe is underway.

Cops caught red-handed accepting bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rammurthy Nagar police station Inspector Rajashekar, Sub-Inspector Ruman Pasha, and Imran Babu, a private citizen were caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh by the Lokayukta police on Saturday.

Lokayukta police laid the trap for the trio after they were approached by an aggrieved individual who wanted to recover jewellery and cash his wife had taken without his knowledge. The two cops and Babu allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from the aggrieved individual. On Saturday, Lokayukta caught the trio while they were accepting a sum of Rs 1 lakh from the complainant. A case has been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

New flights from B'luru to Ahmedabad, Dehradun & Chandigarh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Air India Express is set to launch daily flights from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad, Dehradun and Chandigarh, starting September 1.

The flight operations will be launched in two phases. The twice-daily flights on the Ahmedabad-Bengaluru and Chandigarh-Bengaluru routes will be launched on September 1. The daily flights on the Bengaluru-Dehradun route will start operations on September 15.

As an introductory offer, the airline is offering one-way fares starting at Rs 4,100.

Currently, Air India Express operates more than 405 weekly flights from Bengaluru, connecting directly to 34 domestic destinations and three international destinations.

Go on a captivating visual journey as Rangoli Metro Art Centre hosts '7 Shades' photography exhibition

BENGALURU, DHNS

A group photography exhibition, '7 Shades,' showcasing the works of six artists from across the state, is currently on display at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road.

The exhibition promises a captivating visual journey through varied genres.

Pramod Stephen, a photo artist, is presenting his work, 'Identities in Trance'.

"My work involves people with cross-dressing and trans-dressing as oracles transcending into characters," he said, describing his fascination with the human body's interpretation in rituals.

"I am deeply captivated by the usage of materials, properties, and the aura built around the avatars during the rituals," he added.

His photographs document unique tribal festivals, like Kunde Habba in Karnataka, Chamayavilakku in Kerala, and Kulasai Dasara in Tamil Nadu, capturing fleeting moments of intense devotion.

Fellow artist Ashok Mansur, from Dharwad, mainly focused on landscape photography.

He shared a story behind one of his most loved photographs, stating that he attempted to capture the Milky Way at 2 am near Khanapur temple alone, not withstanding the dangers of being attacked by wild animals, 14 times before finally capturing the perfect image he wanted. He believes that becoming a good artist is impossible without patience.

Naveen Kumar Puttur, an artist-turned-photographer, describes his work as a poetic blend of nature, people, and imagination.

Inspired by the chiaroscuro technique and Rembrandt's paintings, he believes in his "3L" formula: Light, Lens, and Life, which culminates in what he calls the "Opera of Life Lights."

He said he only takes pictures in the winter, specifically during sunrise and sunset, because that is when light and fog create a unique aura.

He also noted that his pictures are taken using only a single light source.

The exhibition showcases the work of 60 photographs by the artists and also features the work of veteran photographer Indra Kumar, as well as Ravikiran Badami and Santosh Y Hanjagi.

The exhibition is open from 11 am to 7 pm till August 26.

Photographer-artist Pramod Stephen explains one of his works, which showcases cross-dressing at a temple at Kollam, Kerala, where men dress up as women to offer prayers as part of a ritual and devotion to the deity.

Community sketching session at NGMA

BENGALURU, DHNS: National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru is hosting an on-location community sketching session in collaboration with Penciljam on August 17, 11 am to 1 pm at auditorium, National Gallery of Modern Art, No 49, Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road.

Those interested may carry a sketchbook or loose sheets with clipboard (A4/A5 or smaller recommended within the galleries); dry art materials only- pencils, pens, etc. (No wet media like paints allowed inside). However, one could also carry a small mat or cloth to sit on the ground (while ensuring pathways remain clear), water bottle (not allowed inside galleries but refill stations are available) and bags are not permitted inside the museum galleries.

Once go-to shops for veggies & fruits, Hopcoms outlets fade out of favour

State-owned units losing out to online sales, delivery apps

SHRADDHA S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society (Hopcoms) outlets that were once the most trusted shops for fruits and vegetables are now slowly vanishing as more people opt for online shopping and depend on delivery apps for their needs.

According to data presented in the ongoing legislature session, over the last few years, 141 Hopcoms outlets have shut shop and of this, 88 are in Bengaluru.

With that, the number of outlets in Bengaluru has come down from 266 to 178.

Minister for Horticulture S S Mallikarjun attributed the decline to competition from malls, private vendors and online platforms.

Hopcoms outlets are slowly vanishing as more people opt for online shopping and depend on delivery apps for their needs. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

DH spoke to managers of a few Hopcoms outlets to understand the situation on ground.

Bhagya, who manages the Bhuvaneshwari Nagar outlet, said sales had steadily dropped with the advent of app-based services. "Now, most of my customers are older people. The younger generation prefers to order online," she said.

Though many Hopcoms outlets reported dip in business, a few in older city areas remain profitable. "Many still prefer us since the prices are centralised and produce is delivered fresh daily," a staffer from the Hosakerahalli outlet said.

Falling staff numbers

The manager at another Hopcoms outlet pointed out that dipping staff strength too was a problem.

"We had 500 stores and 350 staff. Running them smoothly needs 1,200 employees. Without recruitments, closures are inevitable," he said.

Quality issues

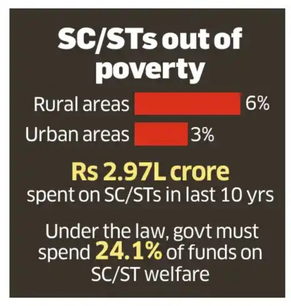
Customers *DH* spoke to are divided in their views. Some had reservations over Hopcoms selling limited varieties and quality not being up to the mark. They said prices were now similar to private vendors.

However, many older shoppers who value handpicking the items over relying on online deliveries said Hopcoms outlets were still their go-to shops.

9% SC/STs have come out of poverty: Minister

Data sought from government departments: Mahadevappa

BENGALURU, DHNS


SC/STs out of poverty
Rural areas 6%
Urban areas 3%
Rs 2.97L crore
spent on SC/STs in last 10 yrs
Under the law, govt must spend 24.1% of funds on SC/ST welfare

Nine per cent of SC/ST households have come out of poverty thanks to a law that mandates spending on these communities, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa said on Saturday.

Mahadevappa was speaking after a meeting CM Siddaramaiah chaired to approve a plan to spend Rs 42,017.51 crore under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP-TSP).

"In rural areas, 6% (of SC/STs) and in urban areas, 3% have come out of poverty because of the SCSP-TSP schemes," Mahadevappa said, adding that the Institute for Social & Economic Change (ISEC) had evaluated the SCSP-TSP expenditure.

"We have also asked all government departments to provide data on how life has changed for SC/STs socially, economically, educationally and in terms of livelihood," Mahadevappa said.

Chairing the SCSP-TSP state council meeting, Siddaramaiah said Rs 2.97 lakh crore was spent on SC/STs in the last 10 years. "We need a review on whether or not programmes taken up with the funds have been effectively implemented," he said, adding that results in the last 10 years have met expectations. "It is shameful if there hasn't been economic, social and educational improvement among SC/STs despite such spending," he added.

In 2013, Karnataka enacted the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013, making it the second state after Andhra Pradesh to introduce a law that mandates spending public money on SC/STs. Under the law, the government must spend 24.1% of funds on SC/ST welfare -- 17.15% for SCs and 6.95% for STs.

Siddaramaiah said ISEC studied the implementation of the SCSP-TSP Act in 39 taluks where the SC/ST population is high. "The state has recorded a 9.6% progress in the release of developmental funds. Compared with other states, it is clear that Karnataka is leading on various parametres," he said.

In 2024-25, the government released Rs 38,793 crore under SCSP-TSP of which 97% was spent.

"The remaining 3% was not spent because the Union government did not release Rs 883 crore under various centrally-sponsored schemes. The departments concerned have been asked to pursue the Union government," Mahadevappa said.

At the meeting, Siddaramaiah asked officials to ensure 100% progress. "We must make sure that banks provide timely financial assistance to beneficiaries. Those banks that delay credit must face action," he said.

Civic groups protest against 'unscientific' projects; demand focus on public transport

BENGALURU, DHNS

Actor Prakash Belawadi, activist Kathyayini Chamaraj and others stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO

PRAKASH BELAWADI
Actor and director

"We hope the government will be responsive to the needs of the people and avoid unilateral decisions which are not in the larger interests of the city.

Hundreds of people gathered at Freedom Park on Saturday, to protest against the government's decisions, that they believe will do more harm than good to Bengaluru. The protesters raised their voices against various issues, including the proposed tunnel road project, the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, and the buffer zone amendment.

The demonstration, organised by Bengaluru Town Hall, saw participants sporting posters and raising their demands.

Activist Sandeep Anirudhan of Bengaluru Town Hall called the new Greater Bengaluru Governance Act "unconstitutional," arguing it creates a "dictatorial" authority that bypasses the democratic process. "We are gasping for breath," he said, accusing the government of strangling the city with "silly projects" like the tunnel roads and flyovers.

He highlighted the importance of protecting lake buffer zones, stating that their destruction would lead to the death of the lakes themselves. Anirudhan also demanded the immediate implementation of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution, which mandates the formation of a Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) with expert urban planners, a body he claims is currently non-existent despite being a constitutional requirement. He pointed to cities like Singapore and Tokyo, which have invested heavily in public transport, as models for a sustainable future, in contrast to Bengaluru's car-centric plans.

Prakash Belawadi, actor and director, who spoke at the protest, said "We hope the government will be responsive to the needs of the people and avoid unilateral decisions which are not in the larger interests of the city. We are of course seriously contemplating legal steps too. Already we are in the process of filing a legal challenge to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill in the Supreme Court, and we are also preparing a legal challenge to the tunnel roads and other non-planned infrastructure projects."

Kathyayini Chamaraj from Civic Bangalore, stated that the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Act mandates that no major project can be taken up without the authority's approval and yet the tunnel road project was being pursued without it. Kathyayini also criticised the lack of public consultation and the absence of critical environmental and traffic impact assessments for the projects. She questioned the government's priorities, asking whether they prefer a project that can carry 89,000 people per hour (Metro) or one that carries only 700 (tunnel road).

'EVM misuse is threat to democracy'

BENGALURU DHNS: "Vote for Democracy" has alleged "serious irregularities" in the 2024 Maharashtra polls and alleged misuse of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) to carry out Vote Theft.

Experts l M G Devasahayam, Madhav Deshpande, and Teesta Setalvad have opined that misuse of EVM "is a threat to democracy."

"The technology of Electronic Voting Machines is being misused to commit vote theft. This is dangerous to the democratic system. This malpractice must be curbed by implementing a transparent electoral system," the experts said. They were speaking at a discussion here on Saturday.

Activists oppose SC's stray dog order

BENGALURU, DHNS: Animal welfare activists from across the city staged a demonstration against the Supreme Court's recent order on stray dogs in Delhi at Freedom Park on Saturday.

Four hundred people took part in the solidarity march taken out in support of the freedom of dogs across India.

Abhishek R Kundinya, founder of United for Compassion, who organised the march along with Sahana Hegde of Sahavarthin Animal Trust, said, "With this march, we pledge support for Delhi's dogs and animals nationwide. Our mission goes beyond one event — we're building a strong, united community that stands for our community dogs and supports each other. Together, we're creating a compassionate network dedicated to animal welfare." The group members registered their protest against the decision to impound stray dogs.

HC expects state authorities to enforce ban on PoP idols

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has disposed of a petition filed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) seeking directions to various authorities for implementation of the 2023 notification enforcing a ban on Plastic of Paris (PoP) idols.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru observed that it expected the authorities concerned to implement the September 15, 2023, government order in accordance with law.

Considering the environmental hazards, the state government had invoked the stringent provisions under the Environment Protection Act and issued the order banning the manufacturing of PoP idols. Besides idols of Ganesha and Gauri during the festival, the order enforced the ban on any PoP idols across the state.

The petitioner KSPCB stated that with Ganesha festival approaching, the market is already witnessing PoP idols.

The counsel appearing for the KSPCB said that the 2023 government order has not been complied with and two manufacturers were found to be operating.

The advocate said immersion of PoP idols has an environmental effect on the water bodies and also said that it violates Article 21 of the constitution.

The petition sought directions to the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru City (Urban), Tahasildar of Bengaluru South, Project Development Officer (PDO) of Kumbalgodu Gram Panchayat and Superintendent of Police (Ramanagara district) to implement the government order.

On the other hand, the government advocate said that certain FIRs have been registered in connection with the manufacturing and selling of PoP idols and further necessary action would be taken in accordance with law. The bench noted that it does not consider to pass any orders on the petition in the wake of the Government Order already in operation and that the same needs to be implemented.

yash raj films
YRF SPY UNIVERSE
YASH RAJ FILMS PRESENTS
WAR 2
DIRECTOR AYAN MUKERJI PRODUCER ADITYA CHOPRA
EXPERIENCE IT IN IMAX
IN CINEMAS NOW
WWW.YASHRAJFILMS.COM
IMAX® is a registered trademark of IMAX Corporation.
HINDI TELUGU TAMIL
A YRF SPY UNIVERSE FILM
a yash raj films™ worldwide release
FARNAZ

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Book release: Pampotsava, "Nichcham Posatu, and Sarvakālakkoo Pampa" to be released; inauguration by Krishnamurthy Hanur; presided by O L Nagabhushan; book release by Dr H P Nagarajayya; talk by Jayaprakash Shetty. Federation of Kannada Industrial and Commercial Associations. Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 10 am.

Hospital and Nursing College inauguration: Inauguration of VCNR Hospital and VCNR Nursing College by Dinesh Gundu Rao, N Srinivas, Dr K Sudhakar, Dr C N Manjunath, S R Vishwanath; VCNR Hospital, PV Tower, near bus stand, Nelamangala; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Pandit Satish Hampiholi Felicitation Committee: Felicitation for "Laya Sadhaka" Pandit Satish Hampiholi, Santosh Hegde, Wooday P Krishna, Manu Baligar, Geetha Ramanujam, Srinivas Prabhu to take part, performances by Praveen Godkhindi, Poorna Acharya, Pratima Atreya; JSS Auditorium, 8th Block, Jayanagar; 2 pm.

Krishna Setty Foundation: Exhibition of paintings by Jatin Das, The Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi; 3 pm.

Bangalore Gayana Samaja: Carnatic vocal recital by Srihari Bhat; Aniruddha Bharadwaj on the violin; Nikshit Puttur on mridangam; Chidananda on morsing, Gayana Samaja, K R Road; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with Light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.4°C
Minimum	20.1°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	83%
Sunset (Aug 17)	6:40 pm
Sunrise (Aug 18)	6:08 am
Moonrise	--:-- pm
Moonset	12:26 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

DS MAX®
JOY OF LIVING
Experience the True Freedom!
Choose your FREEDOM from our various Apartments across Bengaluru.
Airport Road | Yelahanka | K R Puram | Whitefield | Sarjapura | Silkboard
Electronic City | Chandapura | Bannerghatta Road | Banashankari
Mysore Road | Tumkur Road
2, 3 & 4-BHK LUXURY APARTMENTS
₹60 L - 2 Cr*
Visit our website or talk to our advisors for more detail
www.dsmaxproperties.com +91 7022 791 222
CREDAI BENGALURU
Purple's ON - Green's ON and now Yellow's ON
CHOOSE YOUR LINE - CHOOSE YOUR DS-MAX HOME
RV Road 14 mins DS-MAX SISTA GRAND
Kudlu Gate 8 mins DS-MAX SENATE
Singasandra 4 mins DS-MAX SKYBLOSSOM
Hosa Road 10 mins DS-MAX SAHARA GRAND
Konappana Agrahara 16 mins DS-MAX SKYSANMAN
Huskur Road 14 mins DS-MAX SUKRUTH
Hebbagodi 20 mins DS-MAX SPOORTHI
Bommasandra 15 mins 2 UPCOMING PROJECTS
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/110722/005059 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660
*T & C Apply
ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್
Disclaimer: This advertisement provides indicative information only. Images are for representation, and all prices are base and subject to applicable taxes and statutory payments. Please contact our sales team or visit our website for complete details. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the real estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit: www.rera.karnataka.gov.in

Davangere tops state in providing 24x7 drinking water to villages

Of the 92 villages selected in state, 41 are in Davangere

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

Davangere district has emerged on top in supplying round-the-clock drinking water to rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the entire state.

Of the 92 villages where 24x7 water supply system has been implemented in the state, 51 villages, including human habitats such as tanda and camps, are in Davangere district alone. The villages are getting potable water 24 hours a day.

Districts like Shivamogga - 12 villages, Hassan - 8 and Mandya - 6 are in the remaining top slots.

Karnataka Sustainable Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme funded by World Bank, and active participation of the officials and involvement of community have helped Davangere to outscore the other districts.

From August 6 to August 13, 51 villages in six taluks of the district have declared that they receive 24X7 water facility. Zilla panchayat has set a target of bringing 100 villages under this facility by year-end.

A team of World Bank representatives had visited the villages in the district thrice, inspected them and expressed appreciation. This model is being implemented in Assam. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Gitte Madhav Vittalrao has been invited to Assam to share this success.

The Central government announced the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in 2019 to systematically supply drinking water to rural areas. Under the scheme, every rural household should be given 55 liters of water daily.

Speaking to *DH*, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Gitte Madhav Vittalrao said that this had reduced wastage of water by 25%. Earlier, when water was supplied for a few hours of the day, people used to pay attention to storing it. They used to store water in buckets, plastic drums and containers. When water was supplied again the next day, they used to spill the stored water. Due to this, drinking water was going down the drain. People have given up the habit of storing it since there is continuous water supply.

He also made it clear that all the 51 villages have been given water quality test kit and the staff must test water before supplying it to people. If the situation demands, they can send the water samples to the laboratory on the premises of zilla panchayat office in Davangere. The test result will be sent in an hour, he explained. The focus is more on sustainability of this in the declared 51 villages.

The Central government announced the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in 2019 to systematically supply drinking water to rural areas. Under the scheme, every rural household is supplied 55 liters of water daily.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

24x7 water supply in Davangere

Taluks	Villages
Channagiri	8
Harihar	5
Davangere	12
Honnali	8
Nyamathi	11
Jagalur	7
Total	51

From August 6 to August 13, 51 villages in six taluks of the district have declared that they receive 24X7 water facility

4 of family, including 2 kids...

Fire, from Page 3

"The entire construction appeared illegal: there was a commercial setup on the ground floor. And on the subsequent floors, people were living in non-commercial spaces. No adequate safety and security setup was observed."

Home Minister G Parameshwara visited the spot to assess the situation. Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, deputy commissioner of police (Central) Hakay Akshay Machhindra, and senior firefighters, including director (Fire and Emergency Services) T N Shivashankara, were at the site. The operation was called off late in the afternoon after the bodies were recovered and fire doused.

"Prima facie, it appears the fire was triggered by a short circuit. A detailed probe will reveal the cause. This area has thousands of houses with four and five floors on small 30x40 sites. The BBMP will have to take a look at this since they give the permission and trade licences. A lot of these people have set up godowns and live there," Parameshwara told reporters.

The building, Krishna Complex, was owned by Balakrishnayya Shetty and Sandeep Shetty. Halasuru Gate police registered the FIR against them under BNS Sections 105 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 324 (mischief). The FIR noted that the owners neither took any safety precautions nor provided emergency exits in the buildings where they leased shops and also rented housing spaces.

Just 1% govt hospitals meet...

Hospitals, from Page 3

"However, the fire safety certification has to be renewed after three years and many of them would not have done it," he added.

"Also, earlier, we used to ask buildings less than 15 metres high for an affidavit stating they have followed fire safety norms. Six months back, we made fire safety certificates mandatory for them as well. We will make sure the licence of establishments that do not comply with fire safety norms is not renewed when they approach the department for renewal," he explained.

Complying with fire safety measures is crucial, especially in hospitals since there might be many immobile patients. "Many old hospitals do not comply with such norms and it is important that the government, instead of just flagging the issue, gives them deadlines. The staff here also need to be trained on fire drills to ensure they know how to evacuate patients during an emergency," Dr C N Manjunath, former director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and MP representing Bengaluru Rural constituency, told *DH*.

EC faults parties ahead of today's...

EC, from Page 3

"It seems that some political parties and their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) did not examine the electoral rolls at the appropriate time and did not point out errors, if any, to SDMs/EROs, DEOs or CEOs. Recently, some political parties and individuals are raising issues about errors in electoral rolls, including the electoral rolls prepared in the past... Had these issues been raised at the right time through the right channels, it would have enabled the concerned SDM/EROs to correct the mistakes, if genuine, before those elections," it said.

The EC said the election system for Parliament and Assembly elections in India is a "multi-layered decentralised construct" as envisaged by law. The EROs prepare and finalise the electoral rolls with the help of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who undertake the responsibility for the correctness of voters list. It said draft lists are shared with parties and the EC website and one month is provided for the filing of claims and objections. After the publication of the final voters list, digital and physical copies are again shared with all parties and published on the EC website with a provision for two-tier appeal process. "Utmost transparency is the hallmark of Electoral Roll preparation as per law, rules and guidelines," it added.

On the around 1,300 km yatra in Bihar covering 22 districts between August 17 and September 1, Congress Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera said, "We will not accept that the Election Commission becomes a compartment of this so-called 'double engine'. We are fighting against this and will continue to do so in the future."

CPI(ML)L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya claimed that the EC had earlier spoken about identifying a large number of illegal immigrants but has stopped speaking about it.

Cong, Jinnah...

NCERT, from Page 3

Mahatma Gandhi, who was opposed to the idea of Partition, too, gave up. "In fact, Nehru and Patel accepted Partition due to the fear of civil war. Upon their agreeing, Mahatma Gandhi, also gave up his opposition...," it notes. The module adds that Patel called it "bitter medicine", while Nehru described it as "bad" but unavoidable. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said that the book must be burned.

"Set this book on fire ... The truth is that Partition happened because of the collaboration between the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League. If history has the biggest villain, it is the RSS. Future generations will not forgive the role it played in spying, which it continued for 25 years at that time. And in that spying, there was collaboration with Muslims and with Jinnah," he said.

32 sub-registrar offices yet to report high-value transactions

Sub-registrar, from Page 3

The prescribed deadline was May 31, 2025, the I-T department stated.

The letter further reads, "So far, the number of reports filed for the period 2024-25 are less than the reports filed for the reporting period 2023-24.

The information submitted by sub-registrars is processed by the department and incorporated in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) of the taxpayer concerned.

The information contained in the AIS is verified by the taxpayer, and in case of any discrepancy, there is a provision to raise a dispute. Further, the information available in the AIS nudges the taxpayer to make full disclosure of transaction(s) in the income tax return."

However the information received through SFT is also critical for the department to identify cases of undervaluation of properties and for bringing them into the tax net. Failure to furnish the statement within the prescribed time puts taxpayers into great inconvenience and the government loses revenue, says the department.

"Despite best efforts, the continued non-compliance is a matter of grave concern. It is not clear what is preventing these SROs from filing statements when information is available in the Kaveri portal," the letter said.

According to information available, the I-T directorate has been writing to Karnataka's Department of Stamps and Registration on this repeatedly and also about the ways and means to streamline the filing of timely and error-free SFTs by bringing in suitable changes in the Kaveri 2.0 portal.

Mullai Muhilan M P, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps said, "We are validating the online portal for this and are in talks with officials about some technical issues regarding I-T department parameters."

Rape case against BJP MLA's son transferred to Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Upparpet police registered a case on Saturday after an FIR on Prateek Chauhan, son of Aurad BJP MLA Prabhu Chauhan, was transferred from Bidar to Bengaluru.

Case registered in Bidar

Senior officers said that the complainant had alleged that Prateek had raped her on the pretext of marriage.

The First Information Report was first registered on July 20 at the Bidar Women's Police Station.

The woman from Maharashtra claimed that she was engaged to Prateek on December 25, 2023. Between then and March 27, 2024, Prateek allegedly sexually assaulted her on the pretext of marriage, the First Information Report stated.

"Since the woman has alleged that the first sexual assault occurred in Bengaluru, a case has been taken up in Bengaluru after transfer from Bidar," a senior officer said.

Stray dogs injure over 30 in Koppal village

KUKANOOR (KOPPAL DIST), DHNS: More than 30 people were injured in an attack by stray dogs in Talakal and Talabal villages of Kukanur taluk in Koppal district on Saturday. A child suffered grievous injuries with lower lip ripped apart by the dogs.

igtr
(A Govt. of India Society)
organised by ministry of MSME Govt.of India.
Government Certificate course on
Artificial Intelligence in supply chain & Logistics Management
Course Timing- 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM ((ONLINE)) Course Date-23,24,30,31 August 2025 Course Duration: 4 Days
Email ID: trg@igtr-indore.com website: igtr-indore.com Phone: (0731) 4210700/709
Contact : * AI-Based Demand Forecasting * Dynamic Route Planning AI Agents * Inventory Optimization with Machine Learning * Supplier Risk and Performance Analytics * Automated Order Prioritization System * AI-Powered Contract Analysis * Predictive Logistics Cost Forecasting * AI-Driven Trade Compliance Verification * Customer Service Chatbots for Logistics * Supply Chain Scenario Simulation Tools * Universal AI AGENT for Logistics and supply chain* and much more
With hands on practical
Course Fees- 4000/-+18% GST (Fees are not refundable)
for whom- Business professionals, Logistics managers, E-commerce entrepreneurs, Students and supply chain analysts.
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Scan QR Code for Registration & Fees Payment
Call for details between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact -9403566219, 8007765693,9584817708

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)
GEM Bid No. GEM/2025/B/6559738 DATED 11-08-2025
Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in** The tenderer(s) /contractor(s) intending to apply for GeM-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **https://gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description	Complete housekeeping of TNPM wagon depot which includes sweeping, cleaning, muck removal of all shop floor areas and Collection, Segregation, Transportation & Stacking of scraps, RC items in nominated place and cleaning of Toilets, Urinals, Bath Rooms, Washbasins and Housekeeping of all service buildings, garbage disposal, tree cutting, de-weeding and garden maintenance for a period of 1460 days on outcome basis
Location	Chennai
Advertised tender Value in Rs.	29601245
Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.	298010
Similar Nature of Work	Applicable
Period of completion in months	48 Months

Tender closing date and time: **01-09-2025 & 18:00 hrs** Details of value of tender, EMD are given in GeM-portal **https://gem.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **https://gem.gov.in.**
Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)
Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai-600 003

E-AUCTION LEASING FOR PARCEL SPACE
E-Auction contract for leasing of SLR's and VP. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment), **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No. TSK-SLR-VPH-66

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips
AA/1	15642-SLR-F2-NTSK-SCL-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/2	15946-SLR-F1-DBRG-LTT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AA/3	15909-SLR-F1-DBRG-LGH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/4	15604-SLR-R1-LEDO-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/5	20503-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	522
AA/6	15604-SLR-F1-LEDO-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/7	22502-SLR-F1-NTSK-SMVB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/8	15926-SLR-F1-DBRG-DGHR-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/9	15642-SLR-F1-NTSK-SCL-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/10	15962-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AB/1	13281-13282-VP-1-DBRG-RJPB-25-1(Parcel-Parcel Van)	105

Auction Start Date & Time: **10.00** hrs. of **05-09-2025**. **Auction Close Date & Time**: **12.10** hrs. of **05-09-2025**. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**
Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

सत्यमेव जयते
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
announces
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE
students to pursue Higher Education under the
Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC students for the Year 2025-26

ELIGIBILITY
- Parents' / Guardians' annual income not exceeding **Rs. 2.50 Lakh**
- Students pursuing courses in recognised Institutions/Universities /Colleges/ Schools

SCOPE
- All recognised courses from class **XI** onwards
- Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government /Union Territory
- Coverage of the poorest households

ENTITLEMENT
- Compulsory **non-refundable fees** (including tuition fee)
- Academic allowance ranging from **Rs. 2500 to Rs. 13500** per annum
- **10%** extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

- Student should have a valid **Mobile Number, Aadhaar Number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate, Previous year Marksheet and Caste Certificate.**
- Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on below mentioned link:
https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/23
Scan QR Code for Scheme Guidelines

CBC 38101-11-0011-2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. 11-SNT-MYS-2025 Dated : 07-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of the work	Approx. Value
1	Shifting of S & T Cable in connection with the work of Construction of 6 lane with service road RUB No. 745A @ Km 133/100-200, RUB No. 293A @ Km 4/400-500, RUB No. 3 @ Km 0.780, RUB 765B @ Km 7/500-600 of NH 275K.	Rs. 45,46,052.22
2	Shifting of Telecom cables & system in connection with "Provision of CCTV Camera for lift at Ashoka Puram and Provision of lift on existing FOB at Krishnarajanagar and Haveri Station.	Rs. 21,20,010.16
3	Enhancement of Dataloggers speed by providing additional front end processors (FEP), replacement of old version dataloggers with new version of Dataloggers & Proving of left out digital inputs of vital relays and analog voltages in datalogger and thereby improving the efficiency of datalogger over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 69,20,887.18

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
PUB/373/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization,Ernakulam Jn
TENDER NOTICE No: 12-CE-CN-ERS-2025-EPC Dated. 08/08/2025
Name of work: Redevelopment of Chengannur Railway Station on EPC mode.
Tender Value: Rs 8950.33 Lakhs
Bid Security: Rs 46,25,200/-
Completion Period: 32 Months
Pre bid meeting: 25.08.2025 11:00 Hrs
Date and time of tender closing: **25/09/2025. 15.00 Hrs.** Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Chief Engineer / Construction, Ernakulam Jn

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 for the following work:

Sl. No.	Description	Description
1.	Tender Notice Number and Date	**GEM/2025/B/6552998 Dt.12.08.2025**
2.	Name of work	Outsourcing of General furnishing, Welding, Carpentry, Plumbing, Trimming, Painting and passenger amenity attention works in primary & Secondary maintenance trains round the clock and Vinyl wrapping of coaches at Coimbatore & Erode C&W depot for a period of Three years.**(Custom Bid for Services).**
3.	Estimate Value	**Rs. 8,53,25,149.20**
4.	Tender Closing Date and Time	**08-09-2025 10:00:00**
5.	Tender Opening Date and Time	**08-09-2025 10:30:00**
6.	Web Address	**http://www.gem.gov.in**

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM portal **http://www.gem.gov.in** on **12.08.2025 as Custom Bid.**
The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal **"www.gem.gov.in".** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in".**
For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in".**
Divisional Environment Housekeeping Manager, Southern Railway, Salem - 636 005

Survey of Devadasis from September: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: A fresh survey of Devadasi women will be carried out from September, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Saturday, while calling for strict action on the prevalence of the regressive system.

"It has been decided to re-survey Devadasis from the first week of September to ensure effective rehabilitation. The Devadasi system is prohibited and at no cost should it continue," Siddaramaiah said at the state council meeting of the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP-TSP). The last survey of Devadasis in the state was done in 2008. Then, over 40,000 Devadasis were identified.

Karnataka banned the Devadasi system in 1984.

"The government will suitably amend the law against the Devadasi system. Those who push girls into this system will face strong punishment," Siddaramaiah said. "If the Devadasi system still exists, then our heads must hang in shame."

DKS raps MLA for 'CM change after Dec' remark

BENGALURU, DHNS: Channagiri Congress MLA Basavaraju Shivaganga on Saturday claimed that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar would become the chief minister "after December" this year.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress Pradesh Committee president, ordered a notice to Shivaganga for violating the party's diktat.

"It was made amply clear that none should comment on the chief minister's tenure, power-sharing and other issues. The MLAs must follow the party's discipline, not cross the line and create confusion by making unnecessary statements. Still, (Basavaraju) Shivaganga has violated the party's discipline. Therefore, he will be given a notice," Shivakumar said in a statement.

Over 5,000 students register for 'Study Abroad' expo

BENGALURU, DHNS: More than 5,000 students have registered for Karnataka's 'Study Abroad' Expo organised by the Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) on Sunday in the city.

Sixty global universities are participating in the expo at Hotel Lalit Ashok.

To ease financial concerns, several public and private banks will also be present, offering education loans at competitive interest rates.

Karnataka Bank has assured the government of the most student-friendly financial packages, said a communication from the KVTSDC.

"Studying abroad is no longer a privilege reserved for the wealthy. With our government's initiative, even students from economically weaker backgrounds can now pursue higher education overseas without financial burden. This is the first-of-its-kind initiative in India, making global education accessible to all sections of society," said Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood.

This government-backed scheme guarantees continued assistance abroad—covering welfare, academic progress, and legal aid. The expo also ensures transparency, offering free guidance from university selection to post-departure support, without agency fees, according to a press release.

Students can register for the programme at http://studyabroad.ksdckarnataka.com.

WRONGED WITHOUT RIGHTS

Ejected from forests long ago, dwellers' claims now rejected almost en masse

Next to impossible for them to get documents nearly 100 yrs old as per rules

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

A file photo of members of Iruliga tribal community taking out a protest march, demanding that the authorities give them forest rights documents.

Nearly 86% of the total 2.94 lakh applications submitted under Forest Rights Act (FRA) have been rejected in the state and another 8.45% (24,894) applications are pending before the authorities.

Sources in the forest department told *DH* that there are little chances of the remaining applications getting approval for two major reasons: non-existence of elected gram and taluk panchayats across the state and the strict rules of providing documents to prove that the claimants or their family has been living inside the forest for at least three generations or 75 years before the FRA came into existence in 2006.

> As the years pass, it will become even more difficult for claimants to establish their rights as they have to produce documents which are at least 100 years old
> – Veerendra Patil, Advocate

Most of the 2.53 lakh applications have already been rejected twice by the state or district-Level monitoring committee after the Supreme Court instructed the states to 'reverify' the claims.

Karnataka has so far approved only 14,981 Individual Forest Rights (IFR) claims and 1,345 Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims. The state had received 2.88 lakh IFR and 5,940 CFR applications. The state has parted with 56,000 acres of forest land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

However, activists have been accusing the government of denying the right and dignity of hundreds of forest dwellers to live in their natural habitat.

Srikanth, director of Hunsur-based Development through Education (DEED), says hundreds of forest dwellers were wrongfully evacuated from the forests after the union government introduced the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972.

"At least 1,700 tribal families from the 32 hamlets of Nagarahole are fighting cases in various courts of India seeking rights to live inside forest. These families were displaced without proper compensation or providing required documents," he says and adds that in spite of the apex court asking governments to reconsider the rejection of applications, successive governments have not acted.

Vittal B S, a tribal leader from Siddapur Hadlu in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, says in 1957, their hamlet had received road and housing facilities from the central government.

"We have all documents to prove that our native place is a forest area. However, officials, who evicted us from our village in 1976 are saying that we haven't lived there for over 25 years now, so we are not eligible for resettlement or rehabilitation".

At least five other tribal families that *DH* interacted with said they were unable to provide documents as their hamlets were never recognized by the government.

Veerendra Patil, an advocate, has filed a Public Interest Litigation demanding clearance of forest land of encroachments. He says that a majority of the claims submitted are 'fake' as they cannot be proven in court of law to be genuine, due to non-availability of documents.

"As the years pass, it will become even more difficult for claimants to establish their rights as they have to produce documents which are at least 100 years old," he says and adds many of the claims had been rejected after going through the applications twice.

Claims break-up

District	Applications		
	Received	Rejected	Pending
Shivamogga	95,431	90,809	2,213
Uttara Kannada	85,065	71,561	11,763
Chikkamagaluru	21,213	19,303	0
Belagavi	17,424	16,873	0
Bagalkot	11,931	11,843	0
Davangere	11,034	10,232	186

BJP politicising Dharmasthala case, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday accused the BJP of "playing politics" over the Dharmasthala case.

He was reacting to the BJP's 'Dharmasthala Chalo' rally against a "smear campaign" on Hindu temples and traditions.

"The BJP did not speak anything initially. Now, all of them are speaking. They should have spoken at the beginning. They are engaging in politics, nothing else. They are going there (to Dharmasthala) for the sake of politics," Shivakumar said.

"The BJP thinks Hindutva is their property. But it belongs to no one. It is the devotion, feeling and faith of an individual," the deputy CM added.

The 'Dharmasthala Chalo' rally started from Bengaluru. Led by Yelahanka MLA S R Vishwanath, it reached the temple town on Saturday.

BJP rally reaches temple town

MANGALURU, DHNS: The 'Dharmasthala Chalo' rally, launched from Bengaluru under the leadership of Yelahanka MLA and senior BJP leader S R Vishwanath in response to an alleged smear campaign on social media against the Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara temple, reached Dharmasthala on Saturday evening.

The protesters visited the temple and offered prayers.

Speaking to reporters, Vishwanath demanded a thorough investigation into the complainant-witness in the case once the Special Investigation Team (SIT) submits its report.

"He must be subjected to a narco-analysis test," he demanded.

Vishwanath questioned the credibility of the complainant-witness, who has claimed to have buried bodies of rape and murder victims.

"Why did he not reveal this earlier? He could have prevented further crimes by reporting immediately. Hiding a murder is also an offence equal to committing one," he remarked.

The MLA also asked why the SIT has not revealed the individual's identity.

"Why is he covering his face? We have information that he is a converted individual and has married three times," he alleged.

Vishwanath further criticised YouTubers for allegedly spreading misinformation and hinted at a larger conspiracy. "From where do they get money? I suspect they may be receiving funds from foreign countries," he charged.

Dharmasthala 'mass burials': SIT quizzes complainant witness

Skeletal remains recovered during exhumation sent to FSL

MANGALURU, DHNS

A file photo of the exhumation conducted at 13th site shown by the complainant-witness near the bathing ghat in Dharmasthala.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala questioned the complainant witness at its Belthangandy office on Saturday.

According to SIT sources, skeletal remains traced at the sixth site shown by the complainant witness and those found about 100 metres away from the 11th site, have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Bengaluru, and to the Forensic Department of Kasturba Medical College.

At present, the SIT is prioritising the investigation into the allegations made by the complainant witness and has not taken up inquiries related to newly filed complaints.

"Considerable time is required for completing the investigations into the search operations conducted till now. Further searches will be taken up as needed," said sources in SIT. The probe into other complaints will be taken up only after the investigation into complainant witness's allegations reaches a certain stage.

Activist Jayanth T who had complained on the burial of a girl aged between 13 and 15, appeared before the SIT team in Belthangady as a part of the investigation on Saturday.

Speaking to media persons, Jayanath said that exhumation was yet to be taken up at the site he showed to the SIT. "If my allegations are proven false after investigation, they can close the case immediately or take action against me," he said.

He raised questions over the handling of an alleged murder case in the year 2010 and claimed that authorities hurried through the burial without a proper investigation.

"I sought information under the RTI Act from Dharmasthala Police Station on the unnatural deaths between 1995 and 2024. They provided details of 160 unnatural deaths in Dharmasthala village. Some bodies were found decomposed; others were discovered near the bus stand, and on roads leading to the hillock. There were also bodies of suicide victims. All these bodies were buried on the same day they were found. Is it correct? "he sought to know.

BDA
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
A Golden Opportunity
to Own a Flat
In just 5 days
If you pay the entire amount for the Flat and submit forms 26QB, 16B the flat will be registered within 5 working days.
Flat Mela
Kaniminike Residential Complex
Date: 30.08.2025
9.00 am to 5.00 pm
For Location Scan here
Loan Facility is available from Bank
Shri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister greeting Shri N.A. Haris, Hon'ble MLA, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency and Chairman, BDA
Highlights of Kaniminike Projects
Land
Situated on elevated land, Projects Phase 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are spread across 50 acres and feature Modern Technology Surrounded by Lush greenery
Education
Nearby Narayana Gurukul University, Christ University and Delhi Public School
Connectivity
1 km from Bangalore-Mysore Highway
3 km from Challaghatta Metro Station
2 km from Hejjala Railway Station
Metro Station proposed at Hejjala Toll Plaza
Connecting Bengaluru-Mysuru Express way through Judicial Layout
Contact:
6362512234 / 8747877469 / 9886535921 / 9845100299
7795869883 / 8861820172 / 9620243018 / 7795263167 / 9380302909
Further information website :
www.housing.bdabangalore.org/ www.bda.karnataka.gov.in
BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ – 581 301
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELPOMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT, KARWAR-581 301
Telephone: 08382 221170 Email: ka.uttarakannada.dudc@gmail.com
No: UK/DUDC/AmrutNagarothanaPhase-4/CR/2025-26 Dated: 14-08-2025

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Uttar Kannada district, Karwar invites tenders from Eligible KPWD Registered Contractor for Sl.No. 1 & 2 and Authorised Dealers/Agency/ Manufactures for procurement of various Goods and Nagarothan-4 Project work as per KTPP Act 1999 Rule 2000 as detailed below through KPPP Portal (**http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in**).

Uploading of tender documents on **14-08-2025 at 16.00 hrs**, Pre bid Meeting/Tender for clarification date: **22-08-2025 at 11.30 hrs,** Last date for uploading of completed tender documents on **02-09-2025 at 17.00 hrs**., Opening of Technical Bid: **03-09-2025 at 17.30 hrs** & Opening of Financial Bid: **10-09-2025 at 11.00 hrs.**

Sl.No	ULB Name	Indent Number
1	TP Manki	DMA/2025-26/WO/Work_IND47423
2	TP Yellapur	DMA/2025-26/WO/Work_IND47428
3	CMC Karwar	DMA/2025-26/IND5797

All other required tender information may be availed from the website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and **http://www.uttarakannadadudc.mrc.gov.in/.** or Project Director, DUDC, UK Office.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell
DC Office, U.K. District, Karwar

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/386/25-26 dt. 16.08.2025

DH Classifieds

More value, more impact

email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

WANTED

8 to 12 acres land for immediate purchase in Kanakapura Road for a leading Institution.

Call: 95130 55893

OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE

Flat No. 212A, situated in the 2nd floor of the building known as Swiss Complex, measuring about 640 SqFt, fully furnished with open car parking, being a portion of the composite property bearing BBMP No. 33, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560 001.

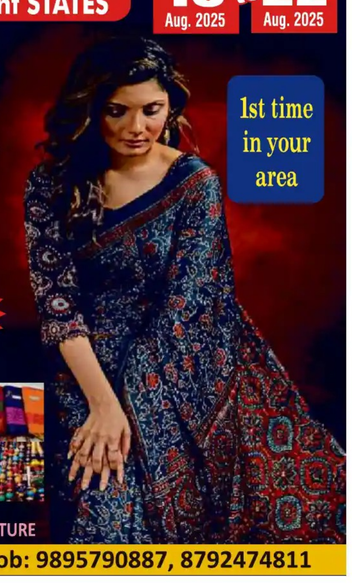
~Contact:~
98450 81411, 080-29521081

SILK - COTTON JEWELLERY EXPO

Handloom collections from different STATES

15 Aug. 2025 to 22 Aug. 2025

Venue: SINDHOOR CONVENTION CENTER
15th Cross, Sarakki 1st Phase, JP Nagar, Ring Road, Bengaluru - 78



1st time in your area

- Cotton Silk Sarees
- Dress Materials
- Pochamapli Sarees
- Khadi Shrits
- Suit pieces
- Jaipur hand Block Shirt
- Phulkari Dupatta
- Tops
- Jaipur Kids Dress
- Kurtis
- Jaipur Dresses
- Kantha work from west Bengal
- Carpets
- Jewellery
- Lac Bangles
- Cushion Cover
- hand Made Mat
- Bedsheets
- Sofa Cover
- Bhagalpur Dress Materials
- Home Decoratives
- Rajashthan Chappals
- Kolkata Bags
- Terracotta Products
- Jaipur Stone Jewellery
- 1 Gram Gold Jewellery

INDIA UNDER ONE ROOF

Organized By: RAJASTHAN HANDICRAFTS FURNITURE
Timing : 10-00am to 9-00pm Mob: 9895790887, 8792474811

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Flat

Magadi Road

WANTED FLATS at Prestige West Wood Apartments, Magadi Road, Bangalore. Contact: 9341288049.

Sites

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATHY ANJANAPURA BANASHANKRI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

BDA-SITES WANTED @ Banashankari 6th Stage Any Block Vishweshwaraiah Layout 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Sattlement Immediately Contact: 98455-55666

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA SITES Anjanapura- Arkavathi Banashankari 6th.Stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda, Dr.Shivaramkaranth Layout. Contact: SAPTHAGIRI. 9036360366.

Vishweshwariah Layout

REQUIRED BDA SITES @ Nagarbhavi, Vishweshwaraiya layout, Kempegowda layout. For Immediate Purchase any measurement. 9513955756, 9513119696.

"**WANTED VISHVESHWARAIAH** Layout 30x40 Sites any facing, Direct Registration, Direct Buyers only. Genuine Owners Contact: 7892224597"

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Anjanapura

BDA SITE For Sale 40x60`N/F @.Anjanapura 10th Block. Price Rs.11000/-Per sft behind`Recoup Hospital.`Owner Meeting.`Broker Excuse. Call: 9481629265

Banashankari

"BANASHANKARI 1ST-STAGE (Hanumanthanagar) close`to PES College BDA 40x60 Semi Commercial, Banashankari 3rd`Stage 40x50 Commercial. 9845286505"

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage, VISHWESHRAIAH LAYOUT, BDA SITES 50X80, 40X60, 30X40, 20X30 Buying/ Selling, Immediate Settlement. 9845675290 9845446826.

AVAILABLE BANSHANKARI 6TH STAGE 6TH BLOCK 20×30 #971 W/F 68 LAKHS CONTACT OWNER 8050908920/ 9986866661

BDA AUCTION SITE SALE 3250 Sqft NORTH WEST CORNER BANSASHANKARI 6th STAGE 4th B Block Call 9008444779

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

BDA SITES Available @`Banashankari 6th Stage all Blocks 20x30, 30x40, 40x60 50x80 In Good Location Contact: 99722-06988

Bannerghatta Road

30'X40' TWO ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL Plots For Sale West Facing Located in Arekere Shanthinikethan Layout. Call Owner 7483853190

Hoskote

PLOT FOR IMMEDIATE SALE Location: Haraluru, Hoskote 6000sqft at Rs.2500/sqft West facing Corner plot 500m from Hoskote-Malur highwayCall: +91 9448011981

HOSKOTE LAND sale 4 acres Shiddlagatta Rd Near Suguna feeds Residential zone price 4.5 crore per Acre: 9243438373/ 9611118888

HSR Layout

"HSR-LAYOUT 20X30 Duplex House on 40`feet Road, 20x30,30x40, 40x60 Sites`and Rental income Building for`sale. Contact: "Krishna" 9886294610"

J P Nagar

"J.P.NAGAR, SRINIDHI LAYOUT 30x51 Prime Residential Site, East Facing, Clear titles, Full White. Owner: 9845088449/ 9845249799"

SALE BDA 40x60 WEST FACING JP NAGAR 9TH PHASE, 3RD BLOCK. FOR PRICE CONTACT: 7022435107

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR SALE

Large quantity of used construction materials in good conditions. Such as Shuttering Plate, Jacks, Spans, Cuplock Staging and Machinery such as Mixer Machine, DG Sets, Winch and Hoist etc,. for sale.

Contact:
6360605636 / 9845042781

33 Flats - 2 BHK AVAILABLE FOR RENT
Ground + 4 Floors

Suitable for : Institutions, Company Guest House, Service Apartment, Senior Citizens Home, PG etc.

Each Floor 8 Flat & Terrace with 2 BHK Penthouse
Ground Floor Parking & 2 Security Room with Bathroom
2 Borwell, Power Backup Generator & Lift, etc.

Good Location @ Sambhram Institute of Technology
Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore - 560075

Contact : +91 98440 29375

Kengeri

***30X40 E/F** BBMP* 'A' Khata site Sale KENGERI SATELLITE TOWN, Arunachalam Layout,Clear Title.₹.9500/-. 9742681666/ 9886634578

Kanakapura Road

**"BUYING AND`SELLING** Residential/ Commercial/ Industrial/ Agriculture Sites, Buildings, Lands, Only`Genuine Buyers & Sellers Call: "Sri.Ganesh Estates" 9845286505"

S/W CORNER site Narayananagara I Block, 1535sft, Call 9902029296 Brokers excuse.

Kempegowda Layout

"30X40 NORTH FACING Site for sale Kempegowda Layout 4th Block E-Katha Site. Contact Direct owner- 9845078185"

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Contact Kumar 9945119449

Nagarabhavi

"AVAILABLE NGEF Layout, Nagarbhavi 40x60, 30x40 direct Registration Vishveshwaraiah Layout sites. Genuine Buyers: 9448733456/ 7259675150"

Sanjaynagar

SALE !! SANJAYNAGAR CENTRAL EXCISE LAYOUT 40X60 BDA Site. Details Niti-Estates 9900001973 'The-Real Estate Professionals'

R T Nagar

SALE COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENCIAL DUPLEX GROUND, FIRST FLOOR BUILT 800 SQFT SITE 400 SQFT 56L: 9035883017

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, BANASHANKARI 6th Stage. Contact: 8892901567

"40X60 WEST-FACING Residential Site`sale`at Vishveshwaraiah Layout 1st-Block 40`feet wide Road near`100 Feet`Road, 15 Minutes drive`to Metro. 9880031654"

"BEL 1ST STAGE 35x60 East, near Magadi Road & Vishveshwaraiah 2nd 50x80 North, both 40`ft Road. 9845408408"

BDA-SITE FOR-SALE 30x40 East Facing at Sir.M Vishveshwaraiya Layout 1st & 3rd Block Good Location Call:7676900174 6363496142

VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT BDA 6th Block Sit No. 3755, 678Sft NW Corner Direct Owner Meeting: 6360050356

MORE Classifieds Ads on Subsequent Pages

"VISHVESWARAIAH LAYOUT KLE Law College 100 feet Road near Siddaganga Compound 40x60 South 40 feet Road. 9448432633"

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

SMV LAYOUT 5th BLOCK 30x40 NORTH FACE Near KLE LAW COLLEGE, BDA ALLOTEE SITE SALE. CALL: 9663226688, 9902817664.

COMMERCIAL SITE SALE SMV Layout, 50x80 West Face 100 Feet Road, Opposite BDA Complex Call: 9986869996.

Vidyaranyapura

SALE SITES EAST FACING 1000, 1200, 1600, 2600 SQFT WITH COMPOUND WALL 7500/- PSQFT 9035883017

Chickbanavara

CHIKKABANAVARA 15X40 South Facing Site E-Khata for SALE Acharya College Road, Chikkabanavara. 4800/- Negotiable. 8296137578

Uttarahalli

UTTARAHALLI PLOT SALE 55x65 BBMP A Khatha North Facing, Corner & Lake View. Rs.15,000/-sft. Call: 6362348146.

Flat

Kanakapura Road

SALE OF FLATS Close to Silk Institute Metro & Nice Road Flats with Feel of A Villa 3 BHK starts from 1.25Cr. Private Varanda Space, RERA APPROVED, 100%Vastu Compliant Homes, Balinese Theme Land Space, with 60+Amenities. Call: 9743859000.

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi Chandra Layout 2 & 3BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Rajajinagar

'BRIGADE GATEWAY', 2.5BHK for sale, 1450sq.ft top floor, Furnished, tenanted to foreigner, excellent rental returns, @ 3.60 Crores. Call- 9880595454/ 9845200577.

Vijayanagar

BUILDING SALE A Katha 60x57 (3450 SqFt) 3 Floors 2BHK 6Flats, 3BHK 1Flats Rental Income 1-50 Lacs, Price. 2.7Cr Pipeline Road Vijayanagar: 9880034233

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

House

Basaweshwaranagar

SALE INDEPENDENT 5BHK GROUND 2BHK FIRST FLOOR 3BHK 3 CAR-PARK A KHATHA 2 Crore: 9035883017

Jayanagar

JAYANAGAR FOURTH T Block Residential old houses North 36.5x57 and South 40x55.6 clear Titles, Alva-9972011119

J P Nagar

SHAKAMBARINAGAR, J.P.NAGAR 1st PHASE 30×40 East,11B E-khatha, with Duplex and rented building, no car parking, sale 2,00,00,000/- 9845395885

Magadi Road

15X40 NORTH G+2 Building with Factory 10hp Power Kamakshipalya, Magadi Road, E-Katha, 59L Owner 9739957911

Sanjaynagar

SALE HOUSE GROUND, FIRST FLOOR 2BHK EACH BUILT 2400SQFT SITE 2800 SQFT 4 CRORES 9035883017

Moodalpalya

15X40 SOUTH G+2 Building 5 Houses, East Door, SVG Nagar, Moodalapalya, E-Katha 85L Owner 9740073482

Vidyaranyapura

60'X40' - INDEPENDENT 4 BHK Duplex S/F, BEL layout, 2nd Block, Immediate registration. 15500/- sq.ft :9844264852

Agricultural Land

Mysore

PARTNER WITH MSU VENTURES. Invest 1.5 crores for 30 Gunta's land purchase near Infosys, in Mysuru and 50 lakhs for Residential layout development then 2.5 crores earn profit in 3 years. T&C apply. Interested investor Contact us: 8971918088

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Out-Station

4 ACRES Land for Sale- Near Yediyur, 200 Coconuts, 100 Mangoes, 750 Arecanut, 30 Chikoo, 100 Teak, 100 Silver, 100 Amla, 6-Borewells, 1BHK House, Fenced Area. Rs.3,50,000 per-gunta. HEAVY BARGAINERS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. Contact: 9448053603

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

10 ACRES Industrial Land for Sale on Dabaspet-Doddaballapur 10 Lane Highway. Interested Contact: 9341211588

Out-Station

INDUSTRIAL SITES FOR SALE @ HOSUR
1) **2.5 Acres** of land+15000 sft Shed next to SIPCOT-11
2) **7.5 Acres** land+50000 sft High roof shed on the NH
Serious buyers- **90590 26979**

Residential/ Commercial

Multiple Locations

REAL ESTATE- We undertake Property Maintenance, Civil, Painting, Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Farmhouse, Houses,Offices, Industrial-shed's.etc- Invest on Small Agricultural plots around Bangalore South, Harohalli, Jigani, Maralwadi etc.and get Good returns in Resale Business: Property Monitoring: Property Management- Rental/ Buying/Selling of:All kinds of properties. Contact- Victory Properties:Mobile: 7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9686894972 info@victoryproperties.in www.victoryproperties.in

Srirampura

SALE 30X100, 1st cross, North facing, Site, Single owner, 2 mins from metro, 17000/sqft PH 9739732433

Commerical

Bannerghatta Road

N.S PALYA BG rd 30x50 commercial building with 40 hp 3 floors 22,000/- psqft. 9886425997

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

NARGUND COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dattatreyanagar, Hosakerehalli,BSK-3rd Stage ,Bengaluru-560085.

APPLY NOW – LIMITED SEATS!

ADMISSION NOW OPEN

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 | 2026

COURSES WE OFFER

- Diploma in Pharmacy
- Bachelors in Pharmacy
- Master of Pharmacy
- Pharm D
- Ph. D

WHY US

- Modern Labs & Advanced Research Facilities
- Expert Faculty with Industry Partnerships
- 100% Placement & Internship Support
- Merit-Based Scholarships Available
- Practical Learning | Career-Ready Training

SCAN FORREGISTRATION

AFFLIATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Contact Us

7019425622 www.nargund.edu.in nargundcop@gmail.com

DH Classifieds More value, more impact
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
REAL ESTATE
BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN
DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY
ON SATURDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-*
FOR 15 WORDS
www.dhclassifieds.com
BOOK NOW
Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:
+91 9845114560 | +91 9886213331
+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164
*Conditions apply

Fire at home kills 3-year-old boy; father suffers 80% burns

DHARWAD, DHNS: In a heart-wrenching incident, a three-and-a-half-year-old boy was burnt to death on Saturday, while his father suffered severe burns.

The victim, Agastya, while standing close to the fire pan kept on the stove at his home in Santosh Nagar on Kelgeri Road in Dharwad, poured thinner on the vessel starting a huge fire, the flames of which engulfed him. On hearing the boy scream, his father Chandrakant Mashal rushed to his rescue, and suffered severe burns. He was rushed to the Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute with 80% burns.

Agastya's grandmother Suvarna, who had kept the fire pan on the stove, too suffered severe burns on her face. Fortunately, Suvarna's daughter and her newborn child, who were in another room, escaped unhurt. Police have registered a case.

Registrar of Societies can't act as postman, forward probe report as received: HC

'He has to apply mind, accept report & then send to society'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has said that the Registrar of Societies cannot act as a postman forwarding the enquiry report as received, to the society.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said that in terms of clause (3) in section 25(2)(C)(iii) of the Karnataka Societies Registration (KSR) Act, the registrar of societies has to apply his mind, accept the report and then forward it to the society.

The petitioners, Gouse Mohiddeen (president) and Gouse Mohammad (vice president) of the Al-Meezan Educational and Social Welfare Society, Bagalkot, had approached the court seeking a direction to recognise the committee headed by them in relation to the management of the society.

Section 25 of the KSR Act provides for the Registrar, on his own motion, or on an application of the majority of members of the governing board, or of not less than 1/3rd of the members of the society, to enquire or direct some person authorised by him by order in writing to conduct such enquiry.

In the case at hand, an enquiry officer was appointed and upon enquiry being conducted, the report was submitted to the Registrar.

The petitioners contended that the District Registrar blindly accepted the report submitted by the enquiry officer, an FDA, without verification, and favoured the rival claim.

On the other hand, the rival claimants argued that since the enquiry was conducted, the Registrar forwarding the report implied that there was application of mind and the report was forwarded to the society for comments.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that authorizing any other person in writing to conduct the enquiry does not mean that the enquiry made by such a person is automatically accepted by the Registrar. The person conducting the enquiry is only a delegate of the Registrar and does not substitute the Registrar himself, the court said.

"Once an enquiry has been made, it would be for the Registrar to apply his independent mind to the enquiry report and either accept or reject the said report, and if the report is rejected, a re-enquiry could also be ordered by the Registrar. In that view of the matter, I answer the above point raised by holding that the Registrar of Societies in pursuance of an enquiry held by his delegate, appointed by him under subsection (1) of Section 25, cannot as a postman forward the enquiry report as received to the society, the registrar has to apply his mind, accept the report and then forward it to the society in terms of clause (3) in Section 25 (2)(C)(iii)," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, remitting the matter to the District Registrar, Bagalkot, for fresh consideration.

Vokkaliga pontiff no more

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pontiff Kumara Chandrashekharanatha Swami, who headed the Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana mutt that was backed by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, died late on Friday night. His last rites were conducted on Saturday afternoon, attended by Gowda, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and others.

Kumara Chandrashekharanatha Swami

The seer's last rites were carried out by his successor Nischalanandanatha Swami.

Last year, the late pontiff had publicly asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resign and make way for Shivakumar, a fellow Vokkaliga. Also last year, the pontiff had to face a police case after he called for disenfranchising Muslims to end votebank politics in India.

He later publicly expressed regret for it.

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK
H.O.: General Administration Wing, New Annex, Akshaya Square, Moka Road, Gandhinagar Ballari – 583103. ☎ : 08392-470022, 470019

TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited in the prescribed format in a sealed envelope for Renewal of **Annual Maintenance Contract of Burglar Alarm systems** in branches of our Bank from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2026. For further details please visit our Bank's website www.karnatakagrameenabank.com. Interested vendors may go through the tender and submit their response in time. Amendments if any will be hosted in the Bank's website only. Quotations duly filled in complete with proper seal & signature should be submitted to above address on or before 08.09.2025 up to 5.00 PM.

For further details & to download the application please visit our bank's website www.karnatakagrameenabank.com

Sd/-
The General Manager
Karnataka Grameena Bank

Fresh no-trust motion under panchayat rules valid based on earlier requisition: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The petition was filed by Gangavva, president of the Jakkali gram panchayat in Ron taluk of Gadag district

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that if a no-confidence motion meeting under the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Rules could not be held due to a court stay order, it can be held after a fresh notice is issued based on the earlier requisition even after the lapse of 30 days from the requisition, within 30 days of the stay being vacated by issuing a notice of 15 clear days.

The court noted this while dismissing a petition challenging the issuance of notice for a meeting to consider the no-confidence motion by an earlier requisition.

The petition was filed by Gangavva, president of the Jakkali gram panchayat in Ron taluk of Gadag district.

Initially, the notice was issued by the assistant commissioner on November 6, 2024, informing Gangavva that a meeting would be held on November 29, 2024, for considering the no-confidence motion against her. This meeting was cancelled for want of quorum.

Subsequently, another notice was issued informing about the meeting scheduled for July 2, 2025, on the basis of a new requisition by the members submitted on June 6, 2025.

On July 1, 2025, the high court stayed the notice on Gangavva's petition and on July 9, disposed of the petition by reserving liberty on the ground that the petition was rendered infructuous as the meeting was not held on July 2.

The petitioner moved the high court again challenging the July 14 notice, fixing the date of the meeting on July 30, 2025, enclosing the earlier requisition dated June 6, 2025.

It was argued that the assistant commissioner could not have enclosed the June 6 requisition as it had lapsed. It was further submitted that a fresh requisition was needed as per Rule 3 of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Motion of No-confidence against Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha of Gram Panchayat) Rules, 1994.

The petitioner also submitted that the meeting is required to be held within 30 days of the requisition being submitted in terms of Sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 of the Rules.

On the other hand, the village panchayat members, who filed the no-confidence requisition, contended that it was always open for the assistant commissioner to issue a fresh notice fixing a fresh date of meeting and submitted that the requisition dated June 6, 2025, continues to hold.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that the interim order in the earlier litigation ended within seven days, thereby the stay also vacated.

"The assistant commissioner has issued notice on 14/07/2025 fixing the date of meeting as 30/07/2025. Looked at from another angle, the period of 30 days which has been fixed under Sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 of Rules of 1994, is to protect the interest of the persons moving the no-confidence motion to ensure that their requisition/requisition for no-confidence is acted upon in a time-bound manner within a period of 30 days. Thus, the grievance, if any, in respect of no action being taken within 30 days could only be raised by the requisitioners and not by the person against whom the requisition has been moved," the court said.

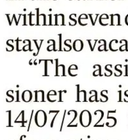
RSS will be ideological foundation of BJP, Santhosh tells Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh on Saturday slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reference of the RSS during his Independence Day speech.

"I want to tell Siddaramaiah: RSS will always be the ideological and intellectual foundation for the BJP. It has entered the mainstream of national life. Most people have accepted the ideology. So, your tweet or that of your allies can't disturb people's minds," Santhosh said at an event to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death anniversary.

"Vajpayee lived for 67 years in an organisation that believes in one life, one mission, one belief and one ideology. That's why Atal or Modi didn't join a party where people jump ship just for power," Santhosh said.

B L SANTHOSH
BJP national general secretary



"It (RSS) has entered the mainstream of national life. Most people have accepted the ideology. So, your (CM's) tweet or that of your allies can't disturb people's minds.

"In Karnataka, someone is planning for the future as his ouster is more or less certain. A person like that won't understand what RSS, BJP or Jan Sangh is," Santhosh said.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/03/HPI/17 Cat/2025-26/1994 Date: 13.08.2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has proposed to establish 2000 MW capacity "Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project" between Talakalale and Gerusoppa Reservoirs falling in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada Districts covering total area of 142.763 ha (Forest land - 54.155 ha and Private lands – 88.608 ha)

As Per Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference letter F No: J-12011/19/2017-IA.I(R) dated: 14.12.2023 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and request letters of the project proponent dated:11.06.2025, 23.06.2025 & 09.07.2025, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB separately for Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada Districts.

The details of the project pertaining to Uttara Kannada District are as follows;

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address : Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, 1st Floor, KPCL Green Building, No.3, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001.

2. Location of the Proposed Project: 1) Area proposed to be utilized for main project & related infrastructures pertaining to Uttara Kannada District. **a)** Sy Nos. 1/*, 1/*, 3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 5/*, 6/*, 7/*, 11/1, 11/2, 11/3, 12/1, 12/2 & 12/3 of Begodi Village, Mavina Kurva Hobli, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District – Total 50 Acres 26 guntas. **b)** Sy Nos. 308/*, 322/1, 322/2, 322/3, 322/4, 323/*, 324/2ಬಿಎ, 326/1, 327/1, 328/1, 328/2, 328/3 & 328/4 of Nagara Bastikeri Village, Mavina Kurva Hobli, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District- Total 17.88 guntas. **2)** Area proposed to be utilized for temporary facilities & for muck disposal pertaining to Uttara Kannada District. **a)** Sy Nos. 3/*, 4/*, 5/1, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4, 7/5, 8/*, 9/1, 9/2, 9/3, 9/4, 10/*, 11/*, 12/1, 12/2, 14/1, 14/2, 14/3ಎ, 14/3ಬಿ, 14/5, 14/6ಎ, 14/6ಬಿ, 14/7, 14/8, 14/9, 14/10, 14/4, 14/11, 202/1, 202/2, 202/3, 202/4, 203/1, 203/2, 203/3, 203/4, 203/5, 203/6, 207/1, 207/2, 209/1, 209/2, 211/*, 212/*, 214/1, 214/2, 214/3, 214/4, 214/5, 215/1, 215/2, 215/3, 215/4, 215/5, 215/6, 215/7, 215/8, 215/9, 215/10, 215/11, 215/12, 215/13, 215/14, 219/*, 220/1, 220/2, 220/3, 223/1, 223/2, 224/1, 224/2, 225/1ಬಿ, 225/1ಎ, 225/2ಎ, 225/2ಬಿ, 226/1, 226/2, 227/1, 227/2, 227/3, 227/4, 227/5, 228/1, 228/2, 229/1, 229/2, 229/3, 229/4, 229/5, 242/*, 243/*, 244/2, 244/3, 244/4, 244/5, 244/6, 244/7, 244/8, 244/9, 244/10, 244/11, 244/12, 244/1ಎ, 244/1ಬಿ, 244/1ಕೆ, 244/1ಡಿ, 244/13, 244/14, 245/*, 246/1, 246/2, 246/3, 247/1, 247/2, 247/3, 247/4, 247/5, 254/1, 254/2, 254/3, 254/4, 255/1, 255/2, 256/1, 256/2, 256/3, 256/4, 257/1, 257/2, 257/3, 259/1, 259/2, 259/3, 260/1, 260/2, 260/3, 264/1, 264/2, 266/*, 267/1, 267/2, 269/1, 269/2, 269/3, 270/*, 272/*, 273/1, 273/2, 274/2, 274/1ಎ, 274/1ಬಿ, 275/1, 275/2, 275/3, 276/*, 278/1, 278/2, 279/*, 280/*, 281/*, 282/*, 284/1, 284/2, 284/3, 284/4, 285/1, 285/2ಎ, 285/2ಬಿ, 286/*, 287/1, 287/2, 364/*, 446/*, 447/1, 447/2, 448/1, 448/2, 448/3, 448/4, 448/5 & 448/6 of Kudragi Village, Mavina Kurva Hobli, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District- Total 48 acres 7 guntas. **b)** Sy Nos. 142/1, 142/2, 145/*, 146/1, 146/2, 147/1, 147/2, 147/3, 148/*, 150/*, 151/*, 152/*, 153/1, 153/2, 153/3, 153/4, 153/5, 154/*, 155/1, 155/2, 155/3, 156/1, 156/2, 183/*, 184/1, 184/2, 184/3, 184/4, 185/1, 185/2, 186/1, 186/2, 187/1, 187/2, 187/3, 187/4, 196/*, 198/*, 199/ಎ1, 199/ಎ2, 199/ಎ3, 200/1, 200/2, 200/3, 200/4, 200/6, 200/7, 200/8, 200/9, 200/10, 200/11, 200/12, 200/13, 201/1, 201/2, 201/3, 201/4, 201/5, 201/6, 201/7, 201/8, 201/9, 201/10, 201/11, 201/12, 201/13, 201/14, 204/*, 210/*, 211/1, 211/2, 212/1, 212/2, 212/3, 213/*, 214/1, 214/2, 214/3, 214/4, 215/1, 215/2, 215/3, 216/*, 217/*, 218/*, 219/*, 221/*, 222/1, 222/2, 257/2, 257/3, 257/4, 257/1ಎ, 257/1ಬಿ, 257/1ಕೆ, 258/1, 258/2, 259/1, 259/2, 260/*, 261/1, 261/2, 261/3, 262/1, 262/2, 262/3, 263/1, 263/2, 264/1, 264/2, 264/3, 264/4, 264/5, 264/6, 264/7, 264/8, 264/9, 264/10, 264/11, 264/12, 264/13, 264/14 264/15, 267/*, 268/*, 269/1, 269/2, 270/*, 271/*, 274/1, 274/2, 280/2, 280/3, 280/4, 280/5, 280/6, 280/7, 280/8, 280/1, 280/9, 281/*, 285/ಎ*, 285/ಬಿ*, 385/1, 385/2, 385/3, 385/4, 385/5, 385/6 & 414/* of Nagara Bastikeri Village, Mavina Kurva Hobli, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District- Total 50 acres 13 guntas.

3. Project proposed: Establishment of 2000 MW capacity "Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project" in between Talakalale and Gerusoppa Reservoirs.

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date: 18.09.2025 (Thursday). Time: 11:00 A.M. Venue: Shri Gutti Kannika Parameshwari Nagaradevi Kalyana Mantappa, Uppinagoli Village, Nagara Bastikeri Village Panchayat, Gerusoppa Post, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Uttara Kannada District, Karwar. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Uttara Kannada District, Karwar. (c) District Industries Centre, Uttara Kannada District, Karwar. (d) Office of the Regional Officer, Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavana, New KHB Colony, Habbuwada, Karwar-581306. (e) Kudragi Village Panchayat and Nagarabastikeri Village Panchayat, Gerusoppa Post, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District. (f) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (g) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

Note: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Deputy Commissioner, Uttara Kannada District Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Member Secretary

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ,
ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಕ್ರೀಪ್ರಾ/ಸಿ5/53/2024–25(ಭಾಗ–01) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.08.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್–2025 ರ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಭಾರತದ ಅರ್ಹ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ	ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್	ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	01
2	ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್	ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	01
3	ಹಾಕಿ	ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	01
4	ವಾಲಿಬಾಲ್	ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	01

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–08–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–56001 ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡದ ವಿವರಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ dyes.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಯುಕ್ತರು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

DIPR/CP/2344/NR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ
ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ. Phone No:08380-229248
Fax No:08380-229017, E-mail: knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕನೀನಿ/ಮಬದ–4/ಪಿ.ಬಿ/ಎಇ/2025–26/507 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–08–2025

ಕೋಟೆಷನ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಸನಗುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಟೆಷನ್ ದರವನ್ನು ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಮಾತ್ರ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Scope of Work: "Consultancy services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report as per the CWC Guidelines for Preparation of DPR for Flood management works for Flood control and Flood Management of Bennihalla up to confluence of Malaprabha River and Liaisoing with various directorates of CWC for approval of Detailed Project Report."

Sl.No.	Item Name	Unit
1	Collection of all necessary data such as, relevant topo sheets of the area, details of Bennihalla, reports and other details , etc complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job
2	Detailed study of the Socio-economic impact and capacity building of habitation due to implementation of the project in the Bennihalla Basin , complete as per directions & guidelines of CWC and as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job
3	Calculation of Benefit Cost Ratio of the Project as per the CWC "Guidelines for Preparation of DPR for Flood management works"	Job
4	Preparation of Detailed Project Report as per the CWC "Guidelines for Preparation of DPR for Flood management works Chapter wise 1.Foreward, 2.Salient Features,3. Executive Summary,4.Prioritizition of the Schemes,5. Hydrology,6.Design of works.7.Abstract of Cost,8.Benefir Cost Ratio,9.Constrcution Plan and as directed by Engineer-in-Charge	Job
5	Detailed Study of the Hydrology of the Bennihalla Basin, Design Flood Computations, Flood Frequency analysis as per CWC handbook "Flood Protection, Anti erosion and River Training Works" -2012 complete as per directions & guidelines of CWC and as directed by Engineer-in-Charge	Job
6	Preparation of required no. sets of hard copies in bound volumes and submitting to the Central Water Commission for scrutiny at various directorates. complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job
7	Liaisoning with various Directorates viz., approval of Detailed Project Report Finance Management, Cost Appraisal, Hydrology, Planning etc., for attending technical observations and to obtain approval of each Directorate etc., complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job
8	Preparation of Final DPR based on approval of various Directorates for final investment clearance, etc.complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job
9	Submission of 10 sets of hardcopies and 2 sets of soft copies for record purpose after approval of DPR from CWC. complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job

Note: G.S.T shall be mentioned separately.

ದರವನ್ನು ನಮೋದಿಸಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24–08–2025 ರಂದು 5.30 pm ಪರೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ** ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9663137692 ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್– **E.mail:knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com** ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/562/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೈ/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EE(E)/PD(KLB)/AEE-2/2025-26/1293-94 Date: 12.08.2025

NOTIFICATION

Establishing 2 x 10 MVA,110/11kV Sub-Station at Kalebelagundi in Gurumitkal Taluk, Yadgiri District, and Construction of proposed 110 kV SC line on DC towers from existing 110KV Konkal to proposed 110/11kV S/S at Kalebelagundi for a distance of 13.328 km work is completed. The line passes through the limits of the following villages: 1) Konkal, 2) Yelheri, 3) Sultanapura, 4) Totalur 5) Kalebelagundi village limits.

The line will be energized on or after **20.08.2025**. Hence public are hereby requested to not to climb towers, tieing of animals, throwing of green sticks/stones on the 110KV lines are prohibited. As these activities are highly dangerous to the lives of both human beings and animals. For such activities KPTCL is not responsible.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division, KPTCL Prasarna Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi-585 106.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW-1, 2 & 3

IFT No.: 13/2025-26. Dated:13.08.2025

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-1, KW-2 and KW-3 through kpp-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works coming under M.I sub-divisions TARIKERE and SHIVAMOGGA (BORE WELL WORKS) amounting from Rs.3.58 lakhs to Rs.50.76 lakhs.. Period of downloading tender documents from e- procurement portal: From 13.08.2025 to 20.08.2025 upto 17:00 hrs. Tender opening date at 17.15 hrs on 21.08. 2025. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e- procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/78/08/766

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that 66 kV, 630 sq. mm, UG Cable from **KPTCL 220/66 kV Khoday's Substation to BMRCL 66/33 kV Kothanur RSS** for a route length of 5.9 km running along the following route will be energised **on or after 18.08.2025.**

220/66kV Khoday's KPTCL substation-Avalahalli Anjanapura Tippu Sultan Circle-Nandi Garden road-Gottigere, Dinne-Kengeri main road-80 feet road-Nayak layout main road-BK Circle-Kothanur Main Road Loyala College-Bannerghatta Main Road Meenakshi temple-Meenakshi temple road-Kothanur Depot up to RSS.

Any direct contact with 66kV, 630sqmm UG cables could be fatal. Hence, public at large are cautioned not to do any digging work in the above mentioned route without authorization. BMRCL shall not be responsible for any injury or casualty arising out of this unauthorized act.

This is issued in the interest of Public Safety.

Sd/-Addl. Chief Engineer (Traction & RSS), BMRCL.

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag
Koushalya Vikas Bhavan, Grama Gangothri Campus, Nagavi, Gadag-582103 E-mail : ksrdpru@gmail.com
Ph : 08372-200920, 200922
Ref : RDPRU/15ENG2025/2025-26/138 Date : 08-08-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka public procurement portal)

The Registrar, MGRDPRU, Gadag, invites tender from eligible tenderers for the work "ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಆವರಣದ ವಸತಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಚರಂಡಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ, ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವೇಕ ಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವೇಕಪಥವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ" as per Standard Bid Document KW-3 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Tenderers are required to submit the tenders only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

(1) Tender No: KSRDPRU/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2, (2) Amount put to Tender : **50,20,635.85**/- (3) EMD Rs. **1,00,500/-** (2%). (4) Downloading through KPP Portal from: **17-08-2025** To **01-09-2025** (5) Last Date for Submission of bids in KPP Portal : **01-09-2025** upto 04:00 pm. (6) Technical Bid Opening Date : **03-09-2025** Time 04: 00 pm. (7) Financial Bid Opening Date : **18-09-2025** Time 11: 00 am.

For more details, contact the office of the undersigned & visit www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/242/2025-26 **Sd/- Registrar**

Fixed timelines for Prez, Guvs risk constitutional disorder: Centre to SC

Says Article 142 cannot be used to create concept of 'deemed assent'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has told the Supreme Court that imposing fixed timelines on Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by a state Assembly would amount to one organ of the government assuming powers not vested in it by the Constitution and lead to a 'constitutional disorder'.

In a written submission, he said, the alleged failure, inaction, or error of one organ does not and cannot authorise another organ to assume powers that the Constitution has not vested in it.

"If any organ is permitted to arrogate to itself the functions of another on a plea of public interest or institutional dissatisfaction or even on the justification derived from the Constitution ideals, the consequence would be a constitutional disorder not envisaged by its framers," he said.

The written submission was filed in the Presidential Reference before the Constitution bench, raising constitutional issues on whether timelines could be imposed for dealing with bills passed by an assembly.

It contended that the apex court imposing fixed timelines would dissolve the delicate equilibrium that the Constitution has established and negate the rule of law.

"The perceived lapses, if any, are to be addressed through constitutionally-sanctioned mechanisms, such as electoral accountability, legislative oversight, executive responsibility, reference procedures, or consultative process amongst democratic organs, etc. Thus, Article 142 does not empower the court to create a concept of 'deemed assent', turning constitutional and legislative process on its head," it said.

It also pointed out Governors are not to be treated as alien or foreigner in the federating units of the Union. "Governors are not just emissaries of the Centre, but rather representatives of the entire nation in each and every federating unit. They represent national interest and national democratic will in the states as part of the larger Indian constitutional brotherhood," it said.

'Politically plenary'

The positions of the Governor and President are 'politically plenary' and represent 'high ideals of democratic governance'. Any perceived lapses must be addressed through political and constitutional mechanisms, and not necessarily through 'judicial' interventions, it emphasised.

"When the Constitution seeks to impose time limits for taking certain decisions, it specifically mentions such time limits. Where it has consciously kept the exercise of powers flexible, it does not impose any fixed time limit. To judicially read in such a limitation would be to amend the Constitution," Mehta said.

He emphasised that the gubernatorial assent is a high prerogative, plenary, non-justiciable power which is sui generis in nature.

Although the power of assent is exercised by the person at the apex of the executive, however, the assent itself is legislative in nature, he said.

The court has earlier fixed a time schedule for hearing the Presidential reference and proposed to start the hearing from August 19.

On May 13, President Droupadi Murmu exercised powers under Article 143(1) to know from the court whether timelines could be imposed by judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the president while dealing with bills passed.

TN questions validity of Presidential reference

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday raised questions regarding the validity of the Presidential reference related to the fixing of timelines for the President and Governors to clear Bills passed by the state legislatures.

Responding to a written submission by the Centre, the DMK government claimed the Centre tried to unsettle the settled principle laid down in the April 8 judgment in the case of the State of Tamil Nadu vs the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Judicial independence

"Entertaining the instant reference would erode the finality of Article 141, undermine judicial independence, and distort the separation of powers. This court should thus decline to answer the reference and return it as constitutionally impermissible," it said.

In a brief note, the state said the May 13 presidential reference raised questions concerning the scope of gubernatorial powers under Article 200 and Presidential powers under Article 201.

"However, these questions have already been comprehensively settled by the Supreme Court in the State of Tamil Nadu Vs the Governor of Tamil Nadu, which authoritatively clarified the constitutional duties of Governors with respect to assent," it said.

It maintained that the questions of the reference were already covered by this verdict, as well as those in the State of Punjab Vs Principal Secretary to the Governor (2024) and the State of Telangana Vs Governor (2023).

Education vital to transform India into developed nation, says VIT's chancellor Dr G Viswanathan

Sandeep Rai Rathore, DGP (in white gown) receives a Ph.D. in Disaster Management from Justice R Mahadevan.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) held its 40th convocation yesterday where 8,310 students received undergraduate degrees, 2,802 received postgraduate degrees and 451 were awarded doctoral degrees. Also, 203 students were recognised for their ranks and 68 received gold medals. Sandeep Rai Rathore, DGP and Director, Tamil Nadu Police Academy was conferred a Ph.D. in Disaster Management.

Supreme Court Justice R Mahadevan was the chief guest. Two hostels for students, named after Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Jagadish Chandra Bose, were inaugurated at the event.

The convocation was attended by VIT's Vice Presidents Shankar Viswanathan, Dr Sekar Viswanathan and Dr G V Selvam; Trustee Ramani Balasundaram; Executive Director Sandhya Pentareddy; Assistant Vice President Kadhambari S Viswanathan; Vice Chancellor V S Kanchana Bhaaskaran; Associate Vice Chancellor Parthasarathy Mallick; and Registrar T Jayabarathi, among others.

Speaking at the convocation, Dr G Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT, highlighted the long-standing demand to allocate six per cent of India's GDP to education, noting that only three per cent is currently spent. "State governments bear 75 per cent of education expenditure, with the central government covering the remainder. Tamil Nadu leads the nation by allocating 21 per cent of its budget to education," he said. He also highlighted VIT's efforts in supporting under-privileged students, with 10,000 students receiving scholarships.

Justice Mahadevan praised VIT for integrating modern technology into its academic, research and administrative functions and collaborating with central government initiatives. He urged the university to continue supporting under-privileged and rural communities. He called on the students to nurture their potential and continue learning. "Books are the key to expanding knowledge", he stated.

Curated by DH Brandspot

India pitches for early end to Ukraine conflict; welcomes Putin-Trump talks

The way forward can only be through dialogue and diplomacy: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin hold a press conference following their meeting, in Imendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. REUTERS

The world wants to see an early end to the conflict in Ukraine, India said on Saturday, welcoming the summit talks between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Alaska that ended without a ceasefire deal.

After an almost-three-hour meeting with the Russian president, Trump said "some great progress" has been made, but did not provide any details.

It was the first US-Russia summit since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"There's no deal until there's a deal," Trump said after the summit.

As leading world capitals analysed the Putin-Trump summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thanking Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his Independence Day greetings to India, wished "our friends in Ukraine a future marked by peace, progress and prosperity".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) welcomed the summit in Alaska and commended Putin and Trump for the initiative to bring peace to Ukraine.

"India welcomes the Summit meeting in Alaska between US President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin of Russia," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA said India appreciates the progress made in the summit.

"The way forward can only be through dialogue and diplomacy," it said.

In a related development, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his British counterpart, David Lammy, and discussed various aspects of the Ukraine conflict.

Adityanath announces Rs 30k-cr plans to develop 'Braj'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad thronged Mathura and Vrindavan on the occasion of Janmashtami on Saturday, with people making a beeline before the famous temples in the twin towns to witness the celebrations and pay obeisance.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath, who also visited Mathura and paid obeisance at the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, announced schemes worth Rs 30,000 crore to develop "Braj"—the region that is a part of the Shri Krishna circuit of Hindu pilgrimage and comprises the districts adjoining Mathura.

"The projects are aimed at developing Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, and Barsana, connecting them with the memories of 'Dwapar Yuga'," said Adityanath after launching the schemes.

He also referred to the development of Kashi, Ayodhya, and Vindhyavasisni Dham in Mirzapur.

N India losing...

WATER, FROM PAGE 3

The biggest loss has been recorded in the Ganga-Brahmaputra and Indus basins, totalling a loss of over 370 tmcft per year. "The loss over north-west India stems primarily from groundwater depletion. This has consistently been the case for the past 22 years, when GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment satellite) data was available," Chandanpurkar told *DH*.

Researchers from the USA, India, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea analyzed data from Nasa's GRACE and GRACE Follow-On missions to evaluate global groundwater conditions. Their study, published in Science Advances, reveals unprecedented rates of drying on continents worldwide, excluding Greenland and Antarctica. The size of drying areas is increasing by roughly twice the size of California every year.

This rapid expansion has led to "mega-drying" zones, formed by the merging of existing dry hotspots. While dry areas are becoming drier and wet areas wetter, the drying rate surpasses wetting. Moreover, dry areas are spreading, while wet areas are shrinking.

Can monsoon rains offset these losses? "Not at the rate terrestrial water storage is declining," he said.

ED raids TN minister, son in money laundering case

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu Rural Development Minister I Periyasamy on Saturday joined the list of high-profile DMK leaders to come under the radar of Central agencies when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) swooped down on premises connected to him and his MLA son in Chennai and Dindigul.

Police personnel during an ED raid at the residence of Tamil Nadu Minister I Periyasamy, in Dindigul. PTI

High drama unfolded at the MLA quarters in the Government Estate when ED officials apparently tried to break open the apartment that Periyasamy's son I P Senthilkumar occupied.

Entry at the State Secretariat was also restricted as speculation mounted that ED officials would come there to search Periyasamy's chamber.

Searches were conducted at the minister's official residence in Greenways Road in Chennai, and on premises he owns in Durairaj Nagar, besides Vallalar Nagar in Dindigul city and Seelapadi village in the district.

Periyasamy and Senthilkumar are powerful DMK leaders from the Dindigul district.

Sources said the searches were in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case that Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) filed against Periyasamy and his family members on charges of amassing wealth from 2006 to 2011, when he was a minister in then chief minister M Karunanidhi's Cabinet.

Though a trial court acquitted them, Justice P Velmurugan of the Madras High Court set aside the acquittal in April and ordered a fresh trial.

Reacting to the raids, DMK organising secretary R S Bharathi said they were an attempt to divert public attention from the "vote chori" (vote theft) allegations levelled by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi against the BJP and the Election Commission.

Before Periyasamy, Public Works Department Minister E V Velu and Municipal Administration Minister K N Nehru were already under the scanner of the Income Tax Department and the ED, respectively.

'Next Gen GST' to usher in two-slab tax regime by 2047: Sources

NEW DELHI, PTI: Describing the proposed GST tax reforms as 'Next Gen GST', senior government officials on Saturday said that the two-slab tax regime will eventually pave the way for a single sales/services tax rate, hopefully by 2047.

They said the proposed new GST regime, which slashes tax rates and assigns just two slabs of 5% and 18%, will boost the economy and also serve to mitigate tariff threats.

The proposed two-slab regime, if approved by the GST Council, will replace the current four slabs in the goods and services tax (GST) regime, doing away with the 12% and 28% slabs.

Calling it the "next Gen GST", one government official said "it is a game changer reform. In the pantheon of economic reforms seen in India, it's right up there."

PEERING FROM SPACE

NISAR milestone: Antenna reflector deployed

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Seventeen days after the launch of the Nasa-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, a key milestone was reached when the onboard 12-m drum-shaped antenna reflector, weighing 64 kg, was successfully deployed, setting the stage for the start of data collection.

The reflector had been stowed until the 9-m boom that supports it could be deployed and locked in place, said Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in a statement. In the next step, the two radars will be calibrated before actual data-gathering starts.

The satellite — launched on July 30 from Sriharikota using Isro's GSLV — will bounce microwave signals off Earth's surface and receive the return signals on the giant radar antenna reflector.

The NISAR satellite, with its drum-shaped antenna reflector deployed.

Its ability to see through clouds and rain is expected to enable users to continuously monitor earthquake and landslide-prone areas and determine, among other things, how quickly glaciers and ice sheets are changing.

It will also keep a constant watch on the deformation of land due to earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides, and changes in forest and wetland ecosystems down to fractions of an inch. It will also aid decision-makers in fields as diverse as disaster response, infrastructure monitoring, and agriculture.

The mission reportedly carries the most sophisticated radar systems ever launched. It combines two synthetic aperture radar systems: a Nasa-made L-band system that can see through clouds and forest canopy, and an Isro-made S-band system that can see through clouds as well but is more sensitive to light vegetation and moisture in snow.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

PRIME COMMERCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE RENTAL
Vijayanagar , 1100 sft, 2nd Floor for Banks, Offices For immediate rental
200 metre from Vijayanagar Metro
contact : 9901752702

Flats

RANKA COLONY
Bannerghatta Road
2 BHK 1 attached Flat
For Rent Furnished
1 Car Parking
Call:9739393607

House

1 RK RENT 400 sqft. plus Terrace, suitable OFFICE/ RESIDENCE near Smart Bazaar, MALLESHWARAM. 7892081511

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

IMPACT GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
Kodigehalli, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-560092.
REQUIRES FACULTY
Invites applications from candidates eligible for the following positions for BE - CSE / AIML / DSc / Cyber Security and MBA
PROFESSOR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
WALK IN INTERVIEW
Monday to Friday - 10am to 3pm
VENUE: IMPACT Campus, Kodigehalli, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru - 560092
(AICTE rules apply for eligibility and compensation)
IMP-25607

POORNAPRAJNA EDUCATION CENTRE, INDIRANAGAR
(Promoted & Managed by Udupi Shree Adamaru Matha Education Council)
C.A Site No. 48, New Thippasandra, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore -75.
English Medium School to be affiliated to CBSE invites application for the following post:
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
(Admin. & Accounts)
B.Com with Tally ERP 9+ 1 yr experience
Apply immediately to Hon. Secretary
Email: contact.indiranagar@ppec.edu.in

Multiple Vacancy

General
WANTED KANNADA Short Hand Writer. Age no bar. Mob: 9341288049.

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
Karnataka State Branch
No. 26, 1st Floor, Red Cross Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Phone: 080-22264205 / 080 - 22268435
E-mail: ircskar@gmail.com
REQUIRES

1)	MEDICAL OFFICER - [MBBS + DCP OR with blood center experience (1) MBBS + Hematology (01)]	TWO
2)	PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER [Master's Degree / Post-Graduate in Public Relation /MBA]	ONE
3)	COORDINATOR with marketing experience MSW/MBA	TWO
4)	STAFF NURSE - [GNM / B.sc Nursing]	TWO
5)	SENIOR ACCOUNTANT [M.Com / MBA / FINANCE]	ONE
6)	LAB TECHNICIAN [experience in blood center - [DMLT/B.Sc. MLT]	TWO

NOTE: Salary negotiable depending upon qualification and experience. Application with testimonials should reach the undersigned at the above address on or before 28th August 2025 before 5.00 p.m. with candidate's mobile number, e-mail id.
For all further details and information please visit www.redcrosskarnataka.org
Sd/- General Secretary

Manager
MANAGER MALE/ FEMALE above 50 years for Plywood Shop, Lalbagh Road, Subbaiah Circle. Starting Salary 15000. Apply through Whatsapp: 9243120231.

Accounts & Finance
REQUIRED ACCOUNTANT B'Com, with 3-Years experience in Tally, GST filing,for Domlur Office. age below 35-Years 9845444922

MATRIMONIAL

Brides Wanted

Hindu
HINDU -TAMIL Boy, 34yrs/BE/SWE/172cms/ 25LPA/ Sc/Ayillam. Settled in Bangalore, well-educated and financially stable Looking for a compatible match. Contact 9845401461.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Grooms Wanted

Hindu
Groom Wanted
Bridegroom wanted, Caste No Bar, Well settled, Handsome, From a good Hindu Family for a Hindu, Kannada, Highly qualified, Beautiful Good looking girl, preferred NRI, Girl settled in UAE,
8722123445
9538123445

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business
FOR OUTDOOR Branding, Autoback, Bus back, Cycle, Mobile Van, Police Barricades, Hoardings, No parking boards, branding for Educational institutions, Corporates, Business, Jewellery Brands, FMNG's/Small Eateries/Events branding. Contact: Venuscast Technologies Pvt.Ltd. (UAE &Bangalore). www.Venuscast.com Call: 9482303339/ 8722123445/ 9538123445

INSURANCE FOR Life, General, Health, Automobile, Factories, Business, Educational institutions, Students, international Travel, Private& Public sector employees insurances. Contact Victory Fin Services: www.victoryfinservices.com Call: 7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9482303339

Finance
LOANS ARRANGED for Housing, Business, Educational institutions, Personal, Automobile, Govt Employees, Software Employees from Banks. Contact Victory Fin.Services: www.victoryfinservices.com Call: 7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9482303339

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that M/s INNOVATIVE GLOBETEK PRIVATE LIMITED & M/s AMBIGA FIRE TECH PVT.LTD previously having official dealership of Shakti Hormann Pvt Ltd; Doors are no longer an authorized channel partner. Henceforth dealing with the below mentioned should do so at their own risk.
M/s INNOVATIVE GLOBETEK PRIVATE LIMITED – GSTIN : 29AACCI7834F1ZE
No. 22/1-2596/2/1, Ward No.194, (Dr. Honnappa Farm), Gottigere Post, Bannerghatta Road Bangalore, Karnataka- 560083
AMBIGA FIRE TECH PVT.LTD - GSTIN: 29AARCA4819R1ZN
#29, Sri Dr.Siddha Thotendra Nilaya Shanti Nagar, 3rd Cross, Acharya College Road, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560090

MORE Classifieds Ads on Subsequent Pages

DH Classifieds More value, more impact | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
RECRUITMENT
BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS
*Conditions apply
www.dhclassifieds.com BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 9731810277 | +91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036

US team may defer India visit for trade pact talks: Official

NEW DELHI, PTI: A US delegation scheduled to visit India from August 25 for the sixth round of talks on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement is likely to defer the meeting, an official said.

So far, five rounds of negotiations have been held, with the next round originally slated for August 25–29. "This visit is likely to be rescheduled," the official said.

The postponement is significant, as it follows the US imposing a steep 50% tariff on Indian goods. The US is pushing for greater market access in sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy—areas India considers non-negotiable due to their impact on small and marginal farmers.

India has maintained it will not compromise the interests of its farmers and cattle rearers. Despite these tensions, both countries aim to conclude the first phase of the BTA by fall 2025 (September–October). They have also set a target of doubling bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030, up from the current $191 billion.

Stalin seeks relief package to mitigate US tariff impact

CHENNAI, DHNS: With several sectors like textiles, apparels, machinery, auto components, leather, and footwear in Tamil Nadu to be affected due to the US' 50% tariff on Indian imports, Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday nudged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce a special financial relief package, including a moratorium on principal repayment, to support exporters.

In a letter to Modi, Stalin said in the last financial year, while 20% of India's total goods exports of $433.6 billion were to the US, 31% of TN's $52.1 billion goods exports went there, to drive home the point that the state has a higher dependency on the US market, which will be disproportionately greater than for most other states.

Stalin also demanded that the Centre consider introducing a special interest subvention scheme for all exporters affected by tariffs to improve liquidity and reduce cost burdens, and accelerate Free Trade Agreements and bilateral arrangements to offset high-tariff market risks.

Police stopped trailer launch of *The Bengal Files*, says director

KOLKATA, PTI: Kolkata Police on Saturday stopped the trailer launch of The Bengal Files, based on the 1946 Calcutta Riots, its director Vivek Agnihotri claimed.

The trailer of the film was slated to be screened at a five-star hotel in the metropolis in the afternoon.

Agnihotri, however, alleged that it was an attack on the democratic rights of people, as the censor board had cleared the film and "the Calcutta High Court stayed a ban on it".

The screening of the trailer was first stopped by a representative of the hotel around 1 pm, who said that permission had been granted for only a press conference, he said.

"If the hotel authorities wanted to stop the screening, why had they given permission to hold the press meet in the first place? How can a film's press meet be held without screening of its trailer?" Agnihotri said.

As the trailer was shown again a little later, "suddenly five-six Kolkata Police officers entered the banquet hall where the programme was being held and stopped the screening midway," the director claimed.

Agnihotri indicated that the screening was stopped at the behest of the ruling TMC and "someone at top". He alleged ruling party also exerted pressure on the hotel management to halt the trailer midway.

'NUN' IMPACT

BJP's Christian outreach back to square one in Kerala

The alleged assault on Malayali nuns in Chhattisgarh has put Kerala's saffron camp on the back foot as it courts the Christian vote ahead of key polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The BJP has been betting big on Kerala, hoping to complement its Hindu support base with a slice of the sizeable Christian vote. But months ahead of local body polls and Assembly elections, that card appears to have slipped from its hand—courtesy of the Bajrang Dal.

Though Chhattisgarh is over 1,800 km from Kerala, the alleged assault on Kerala nuns Preethy Mary and Vandana Francis by Bajrang Dal activists in Durg on June 25 could have serious repercussions for the BJP in the deep south.

Christians make up just 18.5% of Kerala's population as per 2011 Census, but their votes are decisive in 35–40 of the state's 140 Assembly seats.

The BJP had been trying to woo the community by accusing both the Congress-led UDF and CPM-led LDF of Muslim appeasement. It have been raking up issues like 'love jihad' and the Munambam Wakf land row, which affected Christians mostly.

In a show of goodwill, BJP leaders visited bishops and Christian families during Christmas and Easter. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders met prominent clergy, and George Kurian, a Kerala Christian, was inducted as a Union minister. Christian figures like Anil Antony, son of former defence minister A K Antony, were elevated within the party.

But these efforts now seem undermined. The UDF is trying to win back Christian support that had recently warmed to the ruling LDF.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju and Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar with Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil and others. PTI FILE

In yet another bolt for the BJP, another group of Malayali priests and nuns were allegedly attacked by Sangh Parivar activists in Odisha on August 6.

Without wasting any time, both the UDF and the LDF held several protests to "expose" the BJP-Sangh Parivar.

Kerala also saw several bishops taking to the streets "seeking justice" for the nuns, who had been booked on the charges of forced conversion and human trafficking. Bishops took to the streets, demanding justice for the nuns, who had been jailed on charges of forced conversion and human trafficking. They warned BJP leaders that no dialogue was possible without ensuring minority safety.

The desperation in the BJP's Kerala camp was evident as party state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar flew to Delhi and general secretary Anoop Antony Joseph visited Chhattisgarh.

Meanwhile, delegations of UDF and LDF MPs raced to Durg to support the jailed nuns.

When the nuns were finally released on bail, the BJP tried to claim credit, with Chandrasekhar flying to Chhattisgarh to receive them. But that failed to sway the Christian community, which is firm on having the "fake case" quashed and action taken against Bajrang Dal activists.

On August 16, the two nuns called on Chandrasekhar to express their gratitude. They also sought his help in quashing the case against them.

Another relief for the BJP was the "expression of gratitude" by a section of church leaders like Tellicherry archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany.

Still, the BJP is treading carefully. A section within the Sangh Parivar believes overt Christian outreach could alienate the party's Hindu base, especially outside Kerala. The BJP's silence on the Odisha incident seems to be the outcome of such a concern.

Hindus form around 55% of Kerala's population and some in the Sangh believe that a strong two-front campaign against the UDF and the LDF over "minority appeasement" itself could help the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP is also trying to cash in on a fresh 'love jihad' allegation. A purported suicide note of a 23-year-old girl from the Christian community accuses her lover and family of torturing her to convert to Islam for getting married.

Union minister and BJP MP Suresh Gopi visited the family, amid criticism from within the Christian community over his silence on the ordeal faced by the nuns.

Despite these efforts, the BJP is yet to win over Christian voters in a big way. In the recent Nilambur bypoll, the BJP's vote share fell despite fielding a local Christian leader. The party's vote share was only 4.91% while the constituency had around 10% Christian population.

In both the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls, the BJP did not make any gains in Christian strongholds, except in Thrissur, where Suresh Gopi's personal rapport, rather than the party's strategies, seemed to have helped..

Political analyst Jacob George points out that even though the BJP raked up several issues to woo the Christian community, like the Munambam row, human-wildlife conflict that affects high-range farmers who are mostly Christians and the crisis faced by rubber farmers, the party could not bring about any solutions to these issues.

Kerala Christians have been traditionally considered strong supporters of the UDF, owing to the stand of churches against the education and land reforms by the first communist government in the state.

However, a significant shift was witnessed in the 2021 elections as the LDF gained in the Christian strongholds of central Kerala. The Congress is quite cautious about this shift and hence, making all possible efforts to regain the support of the community.

Analysts feel that since it is quite certain that the anti-BJP sentiments among the Christian community aggravated due to the ordeal faced by the nuns in Chhattisgarh, the Congress is most likely to benefit from it.

BJP panel to finalise V-P candidate today

Frontrunners include Delhi L-G, RSS leader, and Governors of Karnataka, Gujarat and Bihar

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP is likely to choose its vice-presidential candidate on Sunday at a meeting of the party's Parliamentary Board—its highest decision-making body. A formal announcement of the candidate is expected on Monday.

A meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties is scheduled for Tuesday, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to announce the candidate to them, and they are expected to accept the individual.

The last date of nominations for the elections is Thursday, August 21. Elections are scheduled for September 9.

Party leaders said the BJP was likely to put up a show of strength for the candidate's nomination, with several chief ministers and deputy CMs likely to be present at the filing of nomination papers.

Last week, floor leaders of the ruling NDA met in Parliament and authorised Modi and Rajya Sabha Leader of the House J P Nadda to finalise the alliance candidate for the V-P elections.

BJP sources said the top brass had made it clear that the next person to take the job would be a BJP insider. The run-up to and the eventual ouster of former V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar have made the leadership wary.

While several names have made the rounds, highly-placed sources said the frontrunners included Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and his Gujarat counterpart Devvrat Acharya. The names of Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena, Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, and RSS leader Seshadri Chari have also been discussed, said sources.

Dhankar's exit, which took place on the first day of the Monsoon Session, came as a surprise to many. However, BJP leaders said it was some time in the making.

Dhankar had been making decisions on his own for a while, and the final straw was when he accepted the Opposition's motion of impeachment against Justice Yashwant Verma.

Justice Verma was with the Delhi High Court when a fire incident at his residence on March 14 led to the discovery of cash.

He was transferred to the Allahabad HC, and the NDA began its push to impeach him, submitting a motion in the Lok Sabha. However, Dhankhar's acceptance of the Opposition's motion deprived the ruling coalition of the opportunity to boast of a 'tough on corruption' stance.

BJP sources had said that party leaders, miffed by the development, skipped a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee the day of Dhankhar's exit, and instead sent a sealed envelope that eventually led to his ouster.

While BJP leaders remained tight-lipped about the content, there was speculation that the BJP was already mulling Dhankar's impeachment, and at least 132 signatures were collected.

Rahul to launch 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' from Bihar's Sasaram today

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Continuing his tirade against the Election Commission, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will launch a fortnight-long march called 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' (Voters' Right March) from Sasaram in Bihar on August 17.

The march, in which leaders of all the allies of the I.N.D.I.A bloc in Bihar, including the RJD, the CPI-ML, CPM, CPI, and the VIP (Vikasheel Insaan Party), is likely to participate and will focus on the fault lines of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Joined by Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav, the march will cover 22 out of 38 districts in the next fortnight and will culminate with a rally at Patna's Gandhi Maidan on September 1.

Rahul Gandhi

The venue is significant since it is the same place where the late Jayaprakash Narayan spearheaded the Total Revolution against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970s.

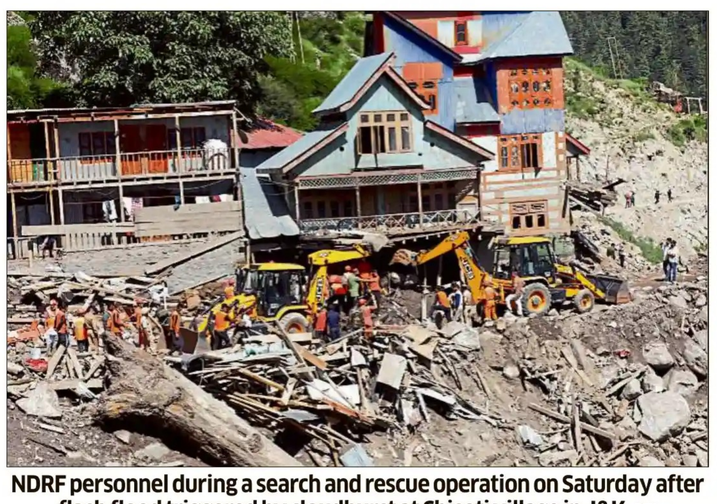
'Decisive battle'

"This is not just an election issue but a decisive battle to protect democracy, the Constitution and the principle of one man-one vote," said Rahul on social media. He asked the youth, farmers, workers and all citizens to join the 'people's movement' so that their effort for a 'clean voter list' is accomplished.

"The march will send a message across Bihar, where Assembly election is slated for October and November, to drive out those who have indulged in vote theft," averred Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram.

The SIR has been mired in controversy. While the Opposition highlighted the anomalies about how dead voters figure in the list and those alive have been declared dead, the Election Commission has insisted that SIR was a much-needed exercise to purify the voters' list.

Post-special intensive revision , the electorate in Bihar has come down from 7.9 crore to 7.2 crore.



NDRF personnel during a search and rescue operation on Saturday after flash flood triggered by cloudburst at Chisoti village in J&K. PTI

5 dead in Mumbai rain amid 'red alert'

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

At least five people were killed and three others were injured as heavy rain lashed Mumbai and elsewhere in Maharashtra on Saturday, coinciding with Krishna Janmashtami and Dahi Handi festivities.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s Regional Meteorological Centre(RMC) had forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall for the weekend and placed Mumbai on "red alert".

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had asked Mumbaikars to avoid stepping out unless absolutely necessary.

The RMC said, "Widespread rainfall activity with heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places with Isolated extremely heavy rainfall is very likely over Konkan and adjoining ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra during August 15-21."

It added: "Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall activity with heavy rainfall at isolated places is very likely over the Marathwada region during the above period. Possibility of lightning and thunder accompanied by occasional gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph is also very likely."

Waterlogging was reported in several areas of the Mumbai metropolitan region. NDRF and SDRF teams have been kept in readiness in the region.

According to the BMC, Mumbai received over 100 mm of rain for the 24 hours beginning 8 am on Friday.

A landslide was reported in the Jankalyan Society, Varsha Nagar. A family's hut, built on collector-owned land in the landslide-prone locality, was buried under the debris. While Suresh Mishra (50) and his daughter Shalu (19) died in the incident, his wife Aarti (45) and son Ruturaj (20) were admitted to hospital.

Elsewhere, two deaths were reported in Nanded and one in Yavatmal, even as Thane was put on "orange alert" and Palghar on "yellow alert".

Tea stall worker with 'links' to Pak terror groups held in Andhra

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A team of central intelligence agencies led by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took Sheik Kothwal Noor Mohammad (42) from Dharmavaram in Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh, into custody on Saturday, on suspicion of having links with Pakistan-based terrorist organisations.

According to police sources, Mohammad settled in Dharmavaram town approximately 15 years ago and has been earning his livelihood by working in local hotels. He is currently employed at a tea stall.

The police became suspicious about Mohammad's background after monitoring his social media activity and put him under surveillance.

On Saturday, the police found that he was part of several radical WhatsApp groups. The police team also recovered 16 SIM cards from his possession.

"As of now, we have found that he has been active on some radical groups on WhatsApp. We will get further details once we question him," a senior police official said.

Police sources also said that Mohammad, who currently lives in a rented accommodation, recently purchased land in Dharmavaram, in and began constructing a house.

Beyond basic details about Mohammad, such as his nature, occupation, and residence, there is limited information available about his background, including his place of origin or marital status, local police said.

The sudden purchase of expensive property drew attention from both the public and police, raising further suspicions about his activities and sources of income.

INSTITUTIONAL ROADBLOCKS

State election commissions lack key powers: Report

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Noting that a large number of urban local bodies are delaying urban local government (ULG) elections, a study by an NGO said State Election Commissions (SECs) operate under 'institutional constraints' and that a majority lack the authority to conduct ward delimitation and reservation.

The report said the SECs face significant institutional constraints, with only 8 out of 34 SECs empowered with both ward delimitation and reservation powers and 2 with powers over delimitation only, while 24 SECs have no powers over these critical electoral processes.

The report, quoting the performance audit reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, said there was rampant delay in elections to Urban Local Governments (ULGs) across the country. 61% of ULGs across 17 states experienced election delays, said the report.

Elections delayed

"Elections once in five years before expiry of the term of the outgoing elected body are well established for ULGs, just like in the case of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. The 74th Constitution Amendment Act and Supreme Court judgments are unequivocal in this.
Yet, state governments are delaying elections to hundreds of ULGs with impunity, with delays sometimes stretching for months and years on end. This status quo needs to stop," Srikanth Viswanathan, CEO of Janaagraha, which conducted the survey, said.

The research indicates that the absence of defined timelines for electoral processes leads to unscheduled amendments to election rules, alteration of urban local government boundaries, announcement of delimitations, and amending reservations by state governments. These create electoral uncertainty in cities, the report said.

The report recommended constitutional amendments to define the frequency of delimitation and reservation and to empower the SECs with these powers.

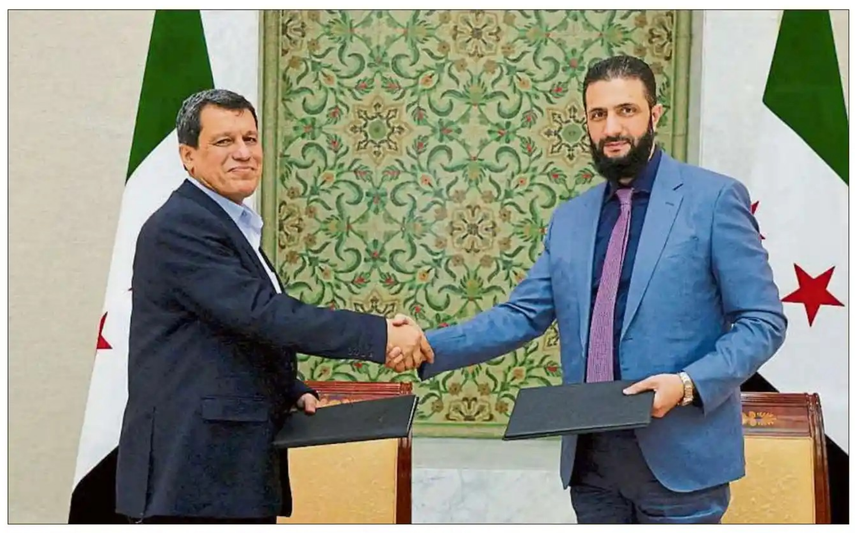
"Legislative safeguards preventing state governments from changing election rules or ULG boundaries within six months of council expiry, model laws to provide robust and time-bound electoral processes for local government elections, including ensuring administrative and financial independence of SECs and mandating transparency measures like submission of annual reports by SECs to Governors, making election related data available in an accessible format on SEC websites, etc," are some of the suggestion.

FRAGILE TRANSITION

Rebuilding Syria through elections is an unenviable challenge

Country faces tough test with first post-Assad elections

P R KUMARASWAMY



Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa (right) shakes hands with Mazloum Abdi, commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, after a deal to integrate the SDF into state institutions. REUTERS FILE

Normally, elections are a legitimising exercise, especially for authoritarian leaders who seek to exhibit their domestic popularity. For over five decades, Syrian leaders had mastered this art, and the periodic façade was necessary to present their seeming acceptance by a wide section of the heterogeneous Syrian population.

In less than a month — between 15 and 20 September — Syrians will choose the next parliament. This will be the first election since the end of the Assad rule on 8 December last year. In all the presidential elections held since March 1971, the Assads were the only candidates on the ballot and secured over 95% of the votes polled, with two exceptions. In February 1999, Hafiz secured 100% of the votes, and in June 2014, amidst the Arab Spring protests, Bashar's vote share slightly fell to 92%.

Elections to the parliament were different. The ornamental and toothless body primarily existed to accommodate and placate various sections of the Syrian population and offer the semblance of diverse representation. The official Ba'ath party always won the majority, with token representation given to allied groups and prominent individuals. Thus, presidential elections were more closely watched than the parliamentary ones, as the latter merely endorsed the decisions of the Assads.

Ahmed al-Sharaa, who took over as president in January following the fall of the Bashar regime, has undertaken a great gamble in calling for parliamentary elections next month. The Riyadh meeting between al-Sharaa and President Trump last May provided the former with the much-needed international legitimacy. Political pragmatism and regional dynamics compelled the US to erase the terrorism tag of the Syrian leader, with President Trump embracing and calling him an "attractive, tough guy" and removing years of sanctions on Syria. This was followed by other regional leaders consolidating his international status. These steps were critical to ending Syria's international isolation.

Syria is one of the most diverse countries in the Middle East, with ethnic, religious and sectoral groups such as Alawites, Bedouins, Christians, Druze, Shias and Sunnis. For a long time, the heterogeneous society was dominated and even controlled by the small Alawite population to which the Assads belonged.

The Assads survived by carefully crafting a coalition of minority groups. Preserving domestic political stability, often through brutal actions against different groups, was the hallmark of Hafiz al-Assad's legacy. His son, who succeeded him in July 2000, could not build on that legacy and exposed the fractured and diverse nature of Syrian society.

Having won international legitimacy, al-Sharaa is now shifting his focus to the volatile domestic arena. He is, however, careful to avoid putting himself on the ballot and has instead opted for parliamentary elections. Al-Sharaa's electoral gamble faces four main hurdles.

First, the civil war that lasted for over two decades fractured Syrian society and exposed its social, sectarian and ideological divisions. Within days of the Assad regime's fall, Alawites became targets of violence from forces aligned with the new regime. Besides anger against the Assads, there is an ideological dimension, with puritan Islamists questioning the Islamic credentials of the Alawites.

Moreover, clashes in the Druze province of Sweida last July, in which nearly a thousand Druze and Bedouins were killed, symbolised the deep tensions among various groups over their status and influence in the post-Assad political setup. Thus, far from presenting unity, the forthcoming election could deepen divisions and contribute to further violence. Should there be an escalation, the elections may have to be postponed.

Second, the civil war has caused enormous displacement, affecting nearly half the population. Estimates suggest that over 14 million Syrians have fled their homes since 2011, with over 7.5 million becoming internally displaced. The rest are in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Türkiye. With conditions in the country still unconducive for the return of refugees and the internally displaced, how will their rights and concerns be accommodated? With this in mind, parliamentary seats have been modified; the September elections will be held for only 140 out of 210 seats, with the remaining 70 members to be nominated by the president himself. He will have to use them to accommodate and placate different minority groups that may not otherwise gain adequate representation in the new parliament.

Third, Syria has no democratic role model to emulate. Prolonged authoritarian rule has been the norm in the Middle East. Strong personalities enjoyed the cloak of stability that concealed several internal social maladies, splits and tensions. The euphoria of the Arab Spring was not sustained; several Arab countries either experienced democratic backsliding or were plunged into civil war. The consociational Lebanese model was hijacked and paralysed by Hezbollah. The internal divisions in Syria were compounded by the civil war, which once saw the active involvement of over a hundred externally supported militant groups. Political instability in Syria became further complicated by the involvement of external powers such as Iran, Israel, Russia, Türkiye and others.

Fourth, the perceived political stability provided by the Assads could not mask the deep-seated faultlines in the Syrian nation-building process. Over the past hundred years, Syria has undergone periodic turmoil, with its national flag altered as many as eight times and governance carried out under six different constitutions, including the temporary one that came into force last March.

President al-Sharaa is seeking to rebuild the country as the world has known it since the end of World War I. The forthcoming elections are a critical step in that direction. Given the internal divisions and prolonged civil war, recreating Syria is easier said than done.

(The writer teaches contemporary Middle East at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi)

Toll from Pak flash floods rises to 327

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The death toll from the flash floods in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa rose to 327, including over a dozen children, over the last 48 hours, provincial authorities said on Saturday.

Across Pakistan, over the last 24 hours, 151 people have died, including 144 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province and seven in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Torrential rains, which triggered flash floods in various districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province since Thursday, are expected to continue intermittently until August 21, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Buner district was the worst-affected with 204 lives lost in the past 48 hours, the PDMA situation report said, adding, the toll in the district increased as 20 bodies were recovered during the day in rescue operations.

At least 120 people were injured, the PDMA said. Deputy Commissioner Kashif Qayum Khan's office said 50 people were still missing. Meanwhile, Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir issued special directives regarding relief and rehabilitation operations for flood-affected people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan Army troops deployed in the province will extend full support in the rehabilitation of flood victims, with additional contingents being dispatched to the affected areas.

US proposed Nato-style defence guarantees for Kyiv: Sources

Trump suggests collective defence clause for Ukraine

KYIV, AFP

US President Donald Trump with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, on Friday. AFP

The US has proposed that Ukraine be protected by a Nato-style collective defence guarantee to ease fears of renewed Russian aggression in the event of a peace deal, Italy's premier and diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

The suggestion was raised during a call US President Donald Trump held with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders a day after Trump's summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

"As one of the security guarantees for Ukraine, the American side proposed a non-Nato Article 5 type guarantee, reportedly discussed with Putin," one diplomatic source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Article 5 is a cornerstone of the Nato alliance, stipulating that if one member is attacked, the entire alliance comes to its defence.

Kyiv has long aspired to join Nato, but Russia has given that as one of its justifications for the war in Ukraine — and Trump has repeatedly ruled out the idea.

Instead, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has been pushing a proposal that would bring Ukraine under Nato's defence umbrella even without being a member — an idea she said Trump raised in Saturday's call.

Another source with knowledge of the matter confirmed that Nato-like guarantees had been discussed. But that source added: "No one knows how this could work and why Putin would agree to it if he is categorically against Nato and obviously against really effective guarantees of Ukraine's sovereignty."

Meloni's statement made no mention of whether the idea had been discussed with Putin.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday that security guarantees for Ukraine needed to be part of peace talks.

Britain and France have said they are prepared to deploy troops to Ukraine to help preserve any truce. But Meloni — who has ruled out sending Italian troops — has presented her proposal as a less risky, less expensive compromise.

On Saturday, she said the starting point would be to define a collective security clause "that would allow Ukraine to benefit from the support of all its partners, including the US, ready to act in case it is attacked again".

In March, Meloni told Italian senators that Article 5 was not necessarily about going to war, saying force was only one possible option when called upon to help an ally.

She also said the collective defence agreement went both ways, suggesting other Nato countries could benefit from the protection of the Ukrainian army if needed.

Putin emerges from summit with increased stature

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: In Alaska, President Vladimir Putin walked on a red carpet, shook hands and exchanged smiles with his American counterpart. Donald Trump ended the summit praising their relationship and calling Russia "a big power ... No. 2 in the world," while admitting they had not reached a deal on ending the war in Ukraine.

By Saturday morning Moscow time, Trump appeared to have abandoned the idea of a ceasefire as a step towards peace — something he and Ukraine had pushed for months — in favour of pursuing a full-fledged "Peace Agreement" to end the war, echoing a long-held Kremlin position. The "severe consequences" he had threatened against Moscow for continuing hostilities were nowhere in sight. On Ukraine's battlefields, Russian troops slowly ground on, with time on their side.

The hastily arranged Alaska summit "produced little for Mr Trump and gave Mr Putin most of what he was looking for," said Laurie Bristow, a former British ambassador to Russia. Putin's visit to Alaska was his first to the US in 10 years and his first to a Western country since invading Ukraine in 2022 and plunging US-Russia relations to their lowest point since the Cold War.

It was another major setback for the International Criminal Court, which in 2023 issued an arrest warrant against Putin on charges of war crimes, casting a shadow over his foreign visits and dealings with world leaders. Trump's return to the White House seemed to overturn all that, as he warmly welcomed Putin with applause on a red carpet while US warplanes flew overhead before a global audience.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A mourner reacts during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli fire in Gaza City on Saturday. REUTERS

China hands over Hangor-class submarine to Pakistan

▸ China has delivered the third of the eight new "advanced" Hangor-class submarines to Pakistan as part of Beijing's efforts to upgrade Islamabad's naval strength and expand its presence in the Indian Ocean, PTI reports from Beijing.

The launching ceremony of the third Hangor-class submarine was held in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, on Thursday, the state-run *Global Times* reported on Saturday. The second of the eight submarines China is building for Pakistan was handed over in March. This is in addition to four modern naval frigates that China supplied to Pakistan in recent years as part of its efforts to strengthen Pakistan's navy amid the Chinese navy's steady expansion in the Arabian Sea, where it is developing the Gwadar port in Balochistan, as well as in the wider Indian Ocean. Speaking at the launch of the third submarine, Pakistan's Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Project-2, Vice Admiral Abdul Samad, said the Hangor-class submarine's cutting-edge weaponry and advanced sensors would be instrumental in sustaining regional power equilibrium and ensuring stability, the report quoted Pakistani defence statement as saying.

Chinese FM Wang Yi to visit India

▸ Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will begin a two-day visit to India on Monday for the next round of border talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, PTI reports from Beijing.

During the visit, Wang will attend the 24th meeting of the Special Representatives meeting on the China-India boundary issue. Wang, along with NSA Doval, heads the Special Representatives dialogue mechanism aimed at addressing the vexed border dispute spanning the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control. Doval travelled to China in December last and held the 23rd round of talks with Wang, weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping decided to revive dialogue between the two sides.

A model presents a creation during the special Autumn-Winter 2025-2026 runway fashion show in London's Trafalgar Square on Saturday. AFP

SU DO KU X - 3649

	4					6		
			2		3		1	
						8	4	3
					9			1
	7							
	9		6	2	4			
1	3							
7								

SOLUTION TO 3648

3	1	2	8	5	6	9	7	4
8	7	9	4	1	2	5	6	3
4	5	6	7	9	3	1	2	8
9	2	4	1	3	7	8	5	6
1	6	7	2	8	5	3	4	9
5	8	3	9	6	4	7	1	2
7	9	5	6	4	8	2	3	1
6	3	8	5	2	1	4	9	7
2	4	1	3	7	9	6	8	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE

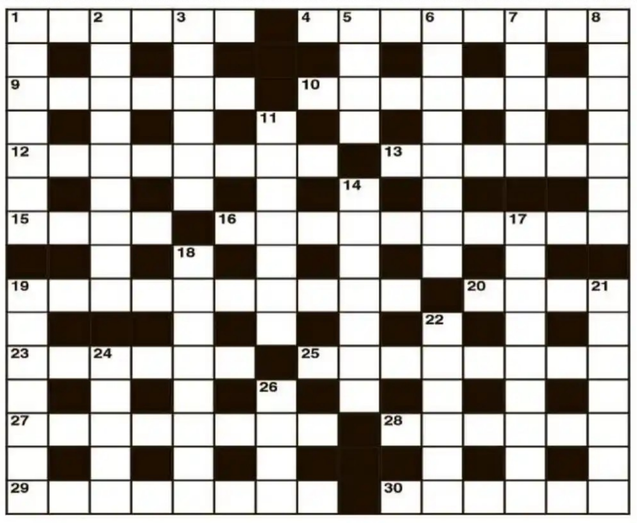
MARY FLORENCE FREDA
DOB: 15-06-1981 - DOD : 16-08-2025
Funeral Service on 17-08-2025 at 11 am Sacred Heart Parish, followed by burial Gate No. 7, Hosur Road Cemetry, Bengaluru
Mourned by :
Josephine, Caroline, Anastasia & Family Members

Air Canada strike grounds flights

TORONTO/OTTAWA, REUTERS: Hundreds of Air Canada employees formed picket lines outside major Canadian airports on Saturday, hours after unionised flight attendants walked off the job in a contract dispute that has disrupted travel for tens of thousands of passengers.

The strike, which began just before 1 am EDT, prompted Canada's largest airline to suspend the majority of its 700 daily flights, affecting over 100,000 travellers. As of Saturday morning, no bargaining sessions were scheduled between the two sides, which have been engaged in on-and-off negotiations for months.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2641 ◆



ACROSS
1 Charlotte, Emily, Anne: English novelists (6)
4 Liberty of action (4,4)
9 Crafty (6)
10 Surrounding district (8)
12 Abroad (8)
13 Whenever one pleases (2,4)
15 Sort (4)
16 Stranded (4,3,3)
19 Killjoy (3,7)
20 Large swallow of drink (4)
23 Declare not guilty (6)
25 Text of an opera (8)
27 Sailor (8)
28 To frolic (6)
29 Eternal (8)
30 Talkative (6)

DOWN
1 Confirm (4,3)
2 Then and there (2,3,4)
3 Hackneyed statement (6)
5 Coarsely overgrown (4)
6 Present (8)
7 Garlic-flavoured mayonnaise (5)
8 Exhibit (7)
11 Courageous (7)
14 Capital of Arizona (7)
17 Forgo (2,7)
18 Everything considered (3,2,3)
19 Thingamyjig (7)
21 Spectral (7)
22 An estrangement (6)
24 Scruple of conscience (5)
26 Fresh information (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4001

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 8, Break-in 9, On-the nos-e 13, A-MP-le 14, Level (rev) 15, Re-treat 16, Scratch 17, Rests 18, Train 20, Dusty 22, B-Ist-ro 23, Charge 25, Crumble 27, R-ais-ing 30, P-lucky 31, Affair (a fair) 32, G-re-at 35, T-asks 36, Socks 37, Am-I-able 39, For-bear 41, Looks 42, Gelid 43, Gets about 44, In-no-w-ay.
DOWN: 1, Pro-per 2, Tapes-try 3, Fill the bill 4, Enclosure 5, Ch-erish 6, In st-itches 7, Isle (I'll) 10, Passed 11, Everest 12, St-ance 19, A-r-range 21, Sp-R-outs 24, Hair-raising 26, Makes sense 28, Off-colour 29, Man-s-I-on 30, Put off 32, Goings-on 33, Tr-end-y 34, A-scribe 38, B-all-ad 40, Reed (rev).

EASY
ACROSS: 8, Musical 9, Parachute 13, Apron 14, Clamp 15, Timpani 16, Old Bill 17, Donor 18, Alpha 20, Earth 22, Tanker 23, Azalea 25, Apricot 27, Silence 30, Trifle 31, Defect 32, Sonar 35, Dream 36, Tonic 37, Ringlet 39, Uncanny 41, Evens 42, Stain 43, Contender 44, Tuneful.
DOWN: 1, Putrid 2, Fiendish 3, Calculation 4, Carpenter 5, Battery 6, Chimpanzee 7, Etna 10, Parole 11, Sardine 12, Cicada 19, Pelican 21, Reptile 24, Picturesque 26, Illuminate 28, Meandered 29, Teacher 30, Tedium 32, Sinister 33, Rating 34, Staying 38, League 40, Crow.

Veer Ahlawat

Aditi makes it to weekend with a 5-under total

PORTLAND (OREGON), PTI: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok made the cut at the Standard Portland Classic on the LPGA after an action-packed second round of 2-under 70, here.

Aditi had five birdies and three bogeys in her 70 and is now Tied-27th at the halfway stage with an aggregate of 5-under for two days.

Indian-American Gurleen Kaur (65-68) is still T-2 while Savannah Grewal, a Canadian with Indian origins is T-11.

Korea's Jeongeun Lee5 shot a 6-under 67 to take the lead while 65-year-old Juli Inkster fell short in her bid to become the oldest player to make a cut in LPGA Tour history.

Ahlawat makes cut

Veer Ahlawat played a strong second round to sneak inside the cut line at the Danish Golf Championship on the DP World Tour in Copenhagen.

Ahlawat shot (73-68) to be 1-under and Tied-45th getting into the weekend while Shubhankar Sharma despite two rounds of even par once again failed to make the cut which was kept at 1-under.

Rasmus Hojgaard played a second round of 7-under 64 for a total of 12-under to move into the lead at the halfway mark.

Talwar goes bogey free

Saptak Talwar played a strong bogey free second round at the Vierumaki Finnish Challenge to make the cut and be placed Tied 36th.

With rounds of 73-67, he was 4-under at the Par-72 Cooke Course.

IN BRIEF

Karnataka beat AP 10-1

▸ Karnataka registered a 10-1 win over Andhra Pradesh in their Division A match of the Hockey India Junior Men National Championship on Saturday, reported PTI from Jalandhar.

The match saw Harpal (12', 35') and Tanish Ramesh Hulakund (17', 56') scoring two goals each, while captain Dhruva BS (25'), Achaiah MM (24'), Kushal Bopaiah CB (51'), Raju Manoj Gayakwad (5'), Nitesh Sharma (10') and Poojith K R (58') scored a goal each.

Kickstart maul Legends 15-0

▸ Kickstart FC posted a big win in their latest Karnataka Women's League game as the side defeated Legends de Sporting FC 15-0 at the Bengaluru Football Stadium, reports DHNS.

Results: KWL: Kickstart FC: 15 (Durga A 6th, 31st, Kiran Pisda 10th, 10th, 56th, 62nd, Laishram Bibicha Devi 21st, Aarushi Santhosh 41st, 59th, 61st, Kajol D'Souza 45+1st, 57th, 66th, 69th, 82nd) bt Legends de Sporting FC: 0; Kemp FC: 2 (Laxmi Tamang 90th, Aadira Ghosh 99+6th) bt Pass FC 1 (K Ashika 68th).

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

EPL: Chelsea vs Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest vs Brentford **(both 6:30 pm)**, Man United vs Arsenal **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Celta Vigo vs Getafe **(8:30 pm)**, Athletic Club vs Sevilla **(11 pm)**, Espanyol vs Atletico Madrid **(1 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Durand Cup: Jamshedpur FC vs Diamond Harbour FC **(4 pm)**, East Bengal vs Mohun Bagan Super Giant **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Cincinnati Open: Doubles finals **(3:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET

Maharaja Trophy: Mangalore Dragons vs Bengaluru Blasters **(3:15 pm)**, Mysore Warriors vs Shivamogga Lions **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL EPL

Richarlison spurs Tottenham

Striker scores twice to get new coach Frank off to a flier, Sunderland win

LONDON, AFP

Richarlison (second from right) celebrates after scoring Tottenham Hotspur's first goal during their win over Burley in London on Saturday. REUTERS

Richarlison scored twice to give Tottenham manager Thomas Frank a dream home debut with a 3-0 win over Burnley on Saturday, while Sunderland shocked West Ham 3-0 on their return to the Premier League.

Frank was seconds away from launching his era in charge with a trophy until a late Paris Saint-Germain revival won the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

The former Brentford boss replaced Ange Postecoglou despite the Australian ending Spurs' 17-year trophy drought by lifting the Europa League.

However, Postecoglou was undone by a miserable return of six home league wins last season as Tottenham finished just above the relegation zone in 17th.

Richarlison made the most of the faith shown in him by Frank as the Brazilian turned in Mohammed Kudus' cross to open the scoring.

The pair combined again on the hour in more spectacular fashion as Richarlison's bicycle kick crashed in the Ghanaian's delivery from the right.

Brennan Johnson was Tottenham's hero of the Europa League final with the only goal against Manchester United and he began the new season by racing clear to slot in the third.

Burnley racked up 100 points in their Championship promotion campaign last season but did little to suggest they will buck the trend of sides being relegated straight back to the second tier.

For the past two seasons, all three promoted teams have gone down.

However, big-spending Sunderland enjoyed a dream return to the top-flight with a second-half demolition of West Ham.

Former Arsenal and Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka is among pool of new signings attracted to the Stadium of Light.

But it was three players key to their promotion back to the Premier League for the first time since 2017 who scored.

Eliezer Mayenda's looping header gave the Black Cats lift off on the hour mark.

Centre-back Dan Ballard headed in the second before Wilson Isidor rounded off a huge win in stoppage time.

Newcastle missed the unsettle Alexander Isak as they failed to find the breakthrough against 10-man Aston Villa in a 0-0 draw at Villa Park.

The Magpies were the dominant side even before Ezri Konsa's red card for bringing down Antony Gordon 24 minutes from time.

Isak had not been involved during Newcastle's pre-season as he appears determined to force through a move to Liverpool, who reportedly saw a £110 million ($149 million) offer for the Swedish striker rejected.

The two clubs face off in their next league match at St. James' Park on August 25.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe said he wants an end to the saga one way or another.

"From my perspective, you want a resolution quickly. It's taking away the focus of the players and the supporters," said Howe

"We want to be united together. We'd like a resolution, but we're not in control of that."

Fulham's Rodrigo Muniz struck in the 96th minute to salvage a 1-1 draw at Brighton after Matt O'Riley's penalty put the Seagulls in front.

Manchester City begin their campaign away to Wolves later on Saturday, hoping to bounce back into contenders for the title after a season to forget in 2024/25.

Arsenal are not in action until Sunday when they travel to face a transformed Manchester United attack.

Results: Tottenham: 3 (Richarlison 10th, 60th, Brennan Johnson 66th) bt Burnley: 0; Brighton: 1 (Matt O'Riley 55th pen) drew with Fulham: 1 (Rodrigo Muniz 90th+6); Sunderland: 3 (Eliezer Mayenda 61st, Daniel Ballard 73rd, Wilson Isidor 90th+2) bt West Ham: 0; Aston Villa: 0 drew with Newcastle: 0.
On Friday: Liverpool: 4 (Ekitike 37th, Gakpo 49th, Chiesa 88th, Salah 90th+4) bt Bournemouth: 2 (Semenyo 64th, 76th).

FAREWELL

Anfield full of emotion during tribute to Jota

LIVERPOOL, AP

Liverpool players and fans paid an emotional tribute to Diogo Jota and his brother, Andre Silva, at the first competitive match at Anfield since their deaths last month.

Diogo Jota

Ahead of kickoff in the 4-2 win over Bournemouth in the Premier League on Friday, Liverpool fans held up placards to spell out "DJ20" and "AS30" in two of the stands during a period of silence in honour of the Portuguese players, who were killed in a car crash in Spain. Players from the Liverpool team stood arm-in-arm around the centre circle. Both teams' players wore black armbands, as did Liverpool manager Arne Slot and his staff.

There was a rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone" as banners, flags and scarves commemorating Jota were waved in the crowd.

After the final whistle, Mohamed Salah was in tears as he stood in front of the Kop stand and kept going a song about Jota that was being chanted by the supporters. Salah also repeated Jota's two-armed celebration after his goal.

BCCI introduces external injury replacement rule

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI has amended its playing conditions, introducing a provision for "serious injury replacements" in multi-day domestic tournaments for the upcoming season.

The move comes in the wake of injuries to Rishabh Pant and Chris Woakes during the recently-concluded Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test series between India and England that ended 2-2.

"If a player sustains a serious injury during the course of the relevant match, a Serious Injury Replacement may be permitted in the following circumstances," stated the newly-introduced rule communicated to the state associations.

It further adds: "The serious injury must have been sustained during play and within the playing area described in clause 1.2.5.2.

"The injury must have occurred due to an external blow and result in fracture/deep cut/ dislocation etc. The injury should render player unavailable for remainder of the match.

"Identify the requested Serious Injury Replacement, who shall be a like-for-like replacement for the player who has sustained the serious injury."

The rule will be applied in multi-day matches of senior and junior domestic tournaments and is set to make its debut in Duleep Trophy from August 28 and Under-19 CK Nayudu Trophy.

Thompson exacts revenge against Lyles in 100m dash

CHORZOW (POLAND), AFP

Jamaica's Kishane Thompson exacted a measure of revenge by beating Olympic champion Noah Lyles over 100m at the Silesia Diamond League meet on Saturday.

It was the first time the two sprinters have met since Lyles was awarded Olympic gold in Paris a year ago, just five-thousandths of a second ahead of Thompson.

The fast-starting Jamaican timed a joint meet record of 9.87sec for victory in the Polish city of Chorzow, with Lyles second in 9.90sec. Another American, Kenny Bednarek, rounded out the podium in 9.96sec.

"It felt alright. My job is to get the job done," said Thompson.

The Jamaican, who missed the cut for the 2023 world championships in Budapest, will be one of the favourites for this year's edition in Tokyo on September 13-21.

Jamaica's Kishane Thompson (right) hugs Noah Lyles of the USA after the former won the 100m race at the Silesia Diamond League in Poland. REUTERS

But he downplayed the significance of the result.

"Honestly, I compete against myself, no offence to the competition," he said.

Lyles was drawn in lane seven, outside Bednarek and inside fellow American Christian Coleman, with Thompson in five, South African Akani Simbine to his left.

But it was Thompson who stole the march in hot and humid conditions, rocketing out of his blocks to leave the field in his wake for a true gun-to-tape display.

Lyles had the joint slowest reaction of the nine-man lineup and looked out of even a podium finish from the start before coming through strongly over the closing 20 metres to pinch second from Bednarek.

Thompson's winning time matched the 9.87sec meet record jointly held by Americans Ronnie Baker and Fred Kerley.

It did not quite match the world-leading 9.75sec he set at the Jamaican trials in June, a time which puts him sixth on the all-time list.

SKY clears fitness test

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ahead of the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel's meeting to pick India's Asia Cup squad, T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav has cleared his fitness test at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

The swashbuckling batter, who last featured in the IPL and was adjudged Player-of-the-Series, had undergone surgery for a sports hernia in the lower-right abdomen in Munich, Germany, in June.

"Fitness tests are mandatory before Return to Play (RTP) post-surgery. Surya has cleared the fitness test," a BCCI source said.

With fitness regained, the stylish batter is now set to attend the selection committee meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The Asia Cup will be played in the UAE from September 9-28.

CSK defend Brevis signing after Ashwin's hint of extra pay

CHENNAI, PTI: Chennai Super Kings on Saturday issued clarification regarding the signing of Dewald Brevis midway through the IPL 2025 season, saying the signing process of the South African batter was in "complete compliance with the rules and regulations" of the league.

A controversy was sparked as former India spinner R Ashwin **(in pic)**, currently in the CSK roster, hinted in his YouTube channel that the five-time IPL champions were willing to pay "extra" to avail Brevis' services.

"Chennai Super Kings categorically clarifies that all actions taken by the franchise during the signing process of Dewald Brevis as a Replacement Player during TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 were in complete compliance with the rules and regulations of IPL," the CSK said in a statement.

The controversy broke out when Ashwin said the CSK was ready to pay more to sign Brevis after a few other IPL teams' talks with the SA batter were hindered by the price.

"I will tell you something about Brevis... When he was supposed to be signed as a replacement, he was supposed to be signed at the base price.

"But what happens is you talk to the agents and the player will say, if you give me X amount extra, I will come," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

"...And CSK were ready to pay him, hence he came. In the back half, the CSK combination was strong. They will go with Rs 30 crore in IPL 2026 mini auction."

Maxwell powers Aussies to series win vs SA

Glenn Maxwell took a brilliant catch before smashing a half-century under pressure to help Australia overcome a dogged South Africa by two wickets and seal the three-match Twenty20 series in Cairns on Saturday.

In response to South Africa's 172-7, Australia were in trouble at 122-6 in the 14th over before Maxwell stepped up with an unbeaten 62 off 36 balls.

There was a late twist when South Africa quick Corbin Bosch dismissed Ben Dwarshuis and Nathan Ellis with consecutive deliveries.

Brief scores: South Africa: 172/7 in 20 overs (Dewald Brevis 53, Tristan Stubbs 25, Rassie van der Dussen 38 n.o.; Nathan Ellis 3-31, Adam Zampa 2-24, Josh Hazlewood 2-30) lt to Australia: 173/8 in 19.5 overs (Mitchell Marsh 54, Glenn Maxwell 62 n.o.; Corbin Bosch 3-26, Kwena Maphaka 2-36, Kagiso Rabada 2-32). **Result:** Aus won by 2 wkts. **PoM:** Glenn Maxwell. **3-match T20 series:** Aus won 2-1. **PoS:** Tim David.

SIMPSON: 1936-2025

Tough Aussie captain and influential coach

Bob Simpson, who died at the age of 89, was the archetypal granite-jawed comic-book Australian cricketer who opened the batting, bowled leg-spin and is still cited as the greatest slip catcher the game has seen.

Across four decades, in different roles, he was a key figure in Australian cricket.

Picked for the first time on the 1957-58 tour of South Africa, Simpson took 30 Tests before scoring his first hundred against England in Manchester in 1964, by which time he was also skipper.

He made sure to cash in, going on to post 311 in that Old Trafford innings, the first of his Test centuries - at that time the second highest individual score by an Australian after Don Bradman's 334 against England in 1930.

He is one of only three batsman whose maiden Test centuries were triples, the others being the great West Indian Garry Sobers and India's Karun Nair.

In 62 Tests, which stretched between 1957 and 1978, Simpson racked up 4,869 runs at an average of 46, took 71 wickets and pocketed 110 catches.

He had two spells as captain, first in the 1960s and then again as a 41-year-old recalled to the side a decade later when Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket deprived Australia of its most experienced cricketers.

And in the mid-1980s he took over as coach, working alongside captain Allan Border to rebuild a mediocre Australia team and turning them into the dominant force in world cricket.

While he became a fixture once on the boat to South Africa, it was not until he was paired with Bill Lawry at the top of the order in 1961 that he really made his presence felt.

Over a seven-year period they averaged over 60 for the first wicket and posted nine century partnerships, including a monumental 382 against the West Indies in Bridgetown in 1965.

It was the first time that two openers had both scored double-centuries in the same Test and remains a record for Australia's first wicket.

He took over the captaincy from Richie Benaud during the 1964/65 home series against South Africa but retired three years later to find a find a more secure living, initially as a journalist and then in public relations.

World Series

When World Series Cricket split the game in 1977, causing most of Australia's leading players to be barred from the national team, Simpson came out of retirement to captain both NSW and Australia.

Leading them in a five-Test series against India he began well with 89 in the first Test and then made 176 in Perth, and 100 and 51 in the final Test in Adelaide as Australia scraped the series 3-2.

He was less successful on the subsequent tour to the West Indies with just one half-century in the 3-1 loss and the selectors drew the curtain for the second time on his playing career.

In 1986 he was appointed coach of an underperforming Australian team with his first priority to improve the quality of the fielding.

The result was almost instant as Australia won the 1987 World Cup and then embarked on a period under Border and then Mark Taylor, helped by the burgeoning talents of Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Steve Waugh and his twin Mark, when Australia finally overshadowed the West Indies as the best team on the planet.

He wasn't loved by all with some such as Ian Chappell vocal in their disdain but the players he worked with until he stepped back after the World Cup final defeat in 1996 almost universally appreciated his tough manner.

Trivia: Simpson is the only person to be part of two tied Tests in the history of Test cricket. He was the captain of the Australian team that tied the Brisbane Test in 1960 while he was the coach when Australia managed to pull off a tie in the Chennai Test against India in 1986.

Bobby Simpson (right), seen with former India pacer Debashish Mohanti in this file photo, worked with the Indian team ahead of and during the 1999 World Cup in England. AFP

Simpson's India connection

Former Australia captain Bobby Simpson had a special connection with India.

His return to Test cricket was against a touring Indian side in 1977 when he had to come out of retirement when most of the top Australian cricketers defected to Kerry Packer series. Besides coming good with the bat, he managed to lead a depleted Australia to a narrow 3-2 series win.

After the retirement, he established himself as a coach of great repute, making Australia the undisputed No. 1 side in the world while dethroning the West Indies.

India employed his services in a consultant role ahead of the 1999 World Cup in England. The New South Welshman worked with the Mohammed Azharuddin-led side in a two-week camp in Chennai before assisting the team during the course of their campaign in England.

He also helped the BCCI in an advisory role in the early years of the National Cricket Academy which came up in Bengaluru in 2000.

Slowdown in the fast lane

While Bumrah and Siraj are in a league of their own, the fast bowling core group has been considerably weakened and plenty of work lies ahead in strengthening it, writes Sidney Kiran

One of the most significant contributions of Virat Kohli as a captain of the Indian cricket team was the creation of a strong set of fast bowlers, where even the back-up acts could easily step in during the absence of lead performers and deliver the goods. Kohli's first sniff at Test captaincy came during the opening Test of the 2014-15 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane against Australia. Kohli finished that series knowing he would be taking over as the leader of the Indian team after MS Dhoni announced his retirement following the third Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. India ended up losing that series 2-0 and the primary reason behind that was Indian pacers' inability to clean up Australia. The hosts went on to score over 500 runs in the first innings of all the four Tests and India's goose was cooked there itself.

This was one of India's biggest headaches for decades. Barring a phase here or there, they constantly struggled to piece together a potent combination of three to four fast bowlers, which is critical to achieve success abroad. Until Kohli's ascension to Test captaincy, India, who were almost unbeatable at home as the conveyor belt of top-class spinners and batters hardly broke down, had never won a Test series in Australia. Jibes like "Tigers at home, lambs abroad" were uncharitable but not unfounded. Kohli, who considered Test cricket as the ultimate challenge, wanted to change that perception of India. He desired to be as successful away as at home.

So when Kohli took charge of the Test team before the Sri Lanka series in August 2015, he and head coach Ravi Shastri laid out a blueprint for it — form a core group of fast bowlers. During Kohli and Shastri's initial years, it was Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Umesh Yadav who were the lead acts. The arrival of Hardik Pandya in 2017 as a fast-bowling all-rounder added more muscle and depth to the team. Kohli and Shastri also figured that the trio of Ishant, Bhuvneshwar and Umesh were getting older, but by the time they were nearing the exit, they had superb replacements in Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj — the former making his debut in South Africa in December 2018 and the latter in Australia exactly two years later. Bumrah and Siraj ended up forming the core with Shami, while guys like Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadkat and T Natarajan chipped in whenever there were injuries to the main guys. End result, India won two successive series in Australia (2018-19, 2020-21, although Kohli didn't captain all the matches in the second triumph). In fact, Kohli went on to become India's most successful Test captain, winning 40 of 68 games he led in, losing 17 and drawing 11. More than the success, it was the wealth of fast bowlers that was the envy of the cricketing world.

The scenario, though, looks a bit bleak now on the fast lane with the recently concluded series in England, which India drew 2-2, showing how much rebuilding the current set-up has to do. Bumrah could only play three Test matches and given how fragile the 31-year-old's body has become following years of wear and tear, it's unlikely the Gujarati will ever play three matches on the bounce. Siraj, who played all 10 matches against Australia and England, is built like a tank but the Hyderabadi too is 31 and how long will his body be able to take such a punishing workload only time will tell. These two are the undisputed leaders of the current era and without them, the rest look a bit raw. Akash Deep and Prasidh Krishna fared well with 13 and 14 wickets respectively but it was evident they needed the constant inputs of Siraj to maintain their shape. In moments when Siraj was out of the field following a long spell, Akash or Prasidh would easily go astray.

India debuted Anshul Kamboj in Manchester, and it was a baptism that went berserk. The Haryana seamer, who had been making waves on the domestic circuit, could barely clock past 130 kmph as England went on a rampage. The options in front of the selectors, in red-ball cricket specifically, aren't also encouraging, with only Mukesh Kumar having made some impact, and the likes of Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Vyshak Vijaykumar, and Vidwath Kaverappa yet to be tested on the big stage. There's Mayank Yadav and Umrah Malik too, both youngsters blessed with raw pace, but yet to make it big on the domestic circuit either. So there's potential, but the grooming has to be done over the next year, with India scheduled to play their next away series in Sri Lanka in August 2026, which will be followed by a trip to New Zealand.

While Mohammed Siraj (centre) is world class along with Jasprit Bumrah (not in the pic), Akash Deep (left) and Prasidh Krishna are still raw. But beyond this quartet, India's fast-bowling resources are thin. AFP

"It's important for us to look at the future and get a good core of five, six bowlers that we can rotate, and these guys can come in and they can do their jobs. At the moment, there's not a lot of experience with the ball. We've got Siraj, we've got Booms (Bumrah) who played a handful of Tests, and then Akash has played a little bit, but he's out injured. So we keep on finding ways to bring new guys who have to start learning their trade in international cricket. It's not easy at the moment, but this is just a phase that we need now to work through and get these guys fitter and stronger to last for the last five Test matches," said India's fast bowling coach Morne Morkel following the Manchester Test.

Former chief selector MSK Prasad feels India need to have a lot of A games where the bench strength can be groomed for the international stage. "To start off with what we did was, we identified close to 15 to 20 fast bowlers. Creating back-ups to the main guys was a priority. So the current set-up also needs to do that. Identify a bunch and test them in India A games. We need to have a lot of India A games and that will prepare them for the rigours of international cricket. There's no dearth of talent in the country, there's a lot of potential that's waiting to be tapped, it just needs to be cultured in the right manner," reckoned Prasad in a chat with DHoS.

"The next generation can also be blooded in with some of the seniors. That way there will be handholding and by the time the seniors are on the way out, the next crop will be ready to take over the mantle. What is happening now is cyclical but like I said there is enough talent in the country. It's up to the selectors, the coaching staff and the management to lay down the blueprint on how they want to go about it."

Gill, head coach Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar have their work cut out.

Yash-ridden Fourth Wing clinches F D Wadia Trophy

PUNE RESULTS

Lesser fancied Fourth Wing, from the stables of Aman Altaf Hussain and ridden by Yash Narredu, won the F D Wadia Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races on Saturday.

Yash cantered Fourth Wing to victory in a time of 1 minute 24.92 seconds. Antony Raj-ridden Money Bags and Akshay Kumar-ridden Encino finished in second and thrid positions respectively.

1. Golden Guest - 1000M: New Yorker (Kishore M Dingra) C.Umesh 1; Samson (A.Prakash) 2; Mirae (Sandesh) 3; We Still Believe (Aditya Waydande) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Nk, 2-1/2L. T: 0-59.08. TB: Narendra Lagad. Fav: Mirae.

2. Mysore Race Club Trophy -2000M: Thalassa (Cowans Bajan) Sandesh 1; Golden Kingdom (Antony Raj) 2; Coeur De Lion (A.Prakash) 3; Ruling Dynasty (Ramswarup) 4; Not Run: Regal Command. Wb: 8, Dist, 5-3/4L. T: 2-04.68. TB: Faisal Abbas. Fav: Thalassa.

3 Janardhan Salver - 1400M: Liam (Nazak Chenoy) Trevor Patel 1; Come September (C.Umesh) 2; Finch (Bhawani Singh) 3; Believe (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1-1/2, 3/4L. T: 1-26.82. TB: Nazak Chenoy. Fav: Liam.

4. Su Chaliyo Plate - 1200M: Timeless Fortune (Rajesh Monga) Yash Narredu 1; El Moran (C.Umesh) 2; Trail Blazer (N.Bhosale) 3; Mulan (Trevor Patel) 4; Not Run: Bezale. Wb: 3-1/2, 3-1/4, 2-1/2L. T: 1-09.70. TB: Mallesh Narredu. Fav: Timeless Fortune.

5. F D Wadia Trophy - 1400M: Fourth Wing (Mrs Prgya Devgan) Yash Narredu 1; Money bags (Antony Raj) 2; Encino (Akshay Kumar) 3; Bishop (A.Prakash) 4; Wb: Lnk, 5-1/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1-24.92. TB: Aman Altaf Hussain. Fav: Money Bags.

6. Magansingh P Jodha Trophy - 1400M: Merlet (Ketan Wakkar) Mukesh Kumar 1; Jackson (Sandesh) 2; Tyrannus (Trevor Patel) 3; Saseka (Neeraj Rawal) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 3/4, 1/2L. T: 1-27.08. TB: S.Waheed. Fav: Enforcer.

7. Waves Of Glory Plate - 1200M: Red Merlot (Laxmikumar Goculdas) A.Prakash 1; Ariyan Star (Trevor Patel) 2; Lion King (Aditya Waydande) 3; Northern Singer (A.Paswan) 4; Wb: Shd, 3/4, 3-3/4. T: 1-10.63. TB: N Lagad. Fav: Ariyana Star.

Bengaluru Dividends

I race: Rs 70w; 14, 23, 11p; Fc: Rs 681; Q: Rs 414; Shp: Rs 61; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 721 & 213; Ex: Rs 3,569 & 2,224.

II race: Rs 12w; Rs 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 15; Q: Rs 13; Shp: Rs 13; Thp: Rs 24; Tri: Rs 56 & 46;

III race: Rs 17w; 12, 15, 20p; Fc: Rs 63; Q: Rs 32; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 262 & 114; Ex: Rs 540 & 225.

IV race: Rs 14w; 10, 16, 24p; Fc: Rs 46 ; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 428 & 203; Ex: Rs 536 & 106.

V race: Rs 150w; 23, 13, 14p; Fc: Rs 517; Q: Rs 179; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 927 & 636; Ex: Rs 5,544 & 1,782.

VI race: Rs 29w; 13, 32, 12p; Fc: Rs 272; Q: Rs 145; Shp: Rs 74; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 618 & 158; Ex: Rs 3,195 & 1,761.

VII race: Rs 23w; 11, 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 41; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 75 & 76; Ex: Rs 385 & 281.

Jackpot: Rs 4,099 (160).
Runner-up: Rs 512 (549).
Treble: Rs 901 (17).

TENNIS CINCINNATI OPEN

Alcaraz survives

Spaniard beats Rublev as Sabalenka, Gauff get knocked out

CINCINNATI, AFP

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and second-ranked Coco Gauff were sent crashing out of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open on Friday as Carlos Alcaraz fought off a fierce challenge from Andrey Rublev to reach the semifinals.

Top seed and defending champion Sabalenka had no answer for Elena Rybakina, falling to the 2022 Wimbledon champion 6-1, 6-4. Reigning French Open champion Gauff had 16 double faults in a 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 exit at the hands of seventh-seeded Italian Jasmine Paolini.

Spain's second-ranked Alcaraz had his difficulties, but he broke Rublev in the final game of a tense duel to emerge a 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 winner and will face third-seeded Alexander Zverev, who brought fifth-seeded Toronto champion Ben Shelton's run to an end with a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

Zverev earned a 4-1 lead in the second set as Shelton angrily tossed his racquet on the changeover, and the 2021 champion polished off the win on a second match point. He now has 24 hours to try to get fit.

Alcaraz was broken while serving for victory at 5-4 in the final set against 11th-ranked Rublev, but he found his focus and used his trademark grit to come through three games later.

He sealed the triumph as an emotional Rublev hit an eighth double-fault on match point.

"I maintained the positive thoughts even if I lost focus a bit in the second set," said Alcaraz, whose five titles so far this year include the French Open as well as Masters 1000 trophies in Monte Carlo and Rome.

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain returns during his win over Andrey Rublev of Russia in the Cincinnati Open. REUTERS

Rybakina through

Rybakina fired 11 aces en route to a fifth career victory over Sabalenka in 12 meetings. She avenged a loss to the Belarusian in Berlin two months ago and booked a semifinal meeting with Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek — a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Anna Kalinskaya.

Rybakina was aided by 11 aces as she reached her first Cincinnati semi-final.

"I'm happy with the serve. It was the key today," Rybakina said. "I served really well."

"If she had been serving well, it would have been a totally different match," she acknowledged.

Rybakina has won her last three matches against Swiatek, all played this season.

But Swiatek was feeling confident after downing Kalinskaya in what she called "the best match I played here."

Gauff, the 2023 Cincinnati champion, had looked well on her way after a quick first set against Paolini.

But her mistakes caught up with her as she was broken eight times by the Italian, who overcame plenty of errors of her own as well as a twisted ankle suffered early in the third set.

Gukesh ends tied sixth at St Louis Rapid and Blitz

ST LOUIS, PTI : World champion GM D Gukesh finished tied sixth as Levon Aronian of the USA convincingly won the St Louis Rapid and Blitz that concluded here.

Gukesh raised visions of a great comeback on the final day of the event as he raced to 3.5 points from his first four games.

Conceding a draw to Aronian in the first game, the Indian accounted for Americans Shankland, Wesley So and Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov before losing steam. In the last five games, Gukesh drew three and lost two games to end his overall campaign on 18 points.

Aronian started the day with a two-point lead and won the event two rounds to spare, scoring 24.5 points. Fabiano Caruana of the United States finished a distant second on 21.5 points, a half point more than the French Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who finished third.

Abdusattorov ended fourth on 20.5 while Wesley So finished on 19 to finish fifth ahead of Gukesh and Liem Le Quang of Vietnam.

For Aronian, this was the second back-to-back title after the 42-year-old GM had won the Freestyle Grand Slam at Las Vegas, also quite easily in the end. The winner got USD 40,000 out of a total pool of USD 175,000.

Gukesh will now train his sights on the next event that starts in just two days. The Sinquefield Cup is the last event before the finals of the Grand Chess tour.

Sisodia sizzles as Mystics beat Lions in rain-hit game

BENGALURU, DHNS

Openers Luvnith Sisodia and Nikin Jose combined in a fiery unbeaten stand to make light work of a revised target of 92 runs (VJD method), guiding the Gulbarga Mystics to 10-wicket victory over the Shivamogga Lions at the Maharaja Trophy in Mysuru on Saturday.

The Gulbarga Mystics snapped out of a two-match losing streak and scripted the Lions' fourth consecutive loss.

Earlier, the Lions were set up by Dhruv Prabhakar's crucial knock of 44 runs in 27 balls, before rain curtailed their innings at 127/5 in 15.5 overs. Shashi Kumar K was the pick of the Mystics bowling attack with two crucial wickets.

Chasing the revised target, Sisodia (58 not out off 24) and Jose (34 not out off 15) went on an early onslaught. Sisodia launched into Vidwath Kaverappa in the opening over, clearing the ropes once and striking two crisp boundaries. Jose then tore into the Kaverappa in the third over, plundering 24 runs with a six and four consecutive fours, putting the Mystics firmly in control.

The pair brought up their 50-run partnership in just 19 balls, with Sisodia adding three more sixes to bring his side to 74/0 at the end of five overs. The Mystics cruised home in 6.3 overs, sealing the game with remarkable ease.

Hubli Tigers win

Rain once again delayed play in the second innings of the second contest of the day in which Hubli Tigers won by seven wickets against Mysore Warriors.

Luvnith Sisodia

Needing three runs in the last six balls out of the reduced overs of nine and revised target of 86, Hubli Tigers, powered by Prakhar Chaturvedi 45 off 20 balls, emerged victorious.

Earlier, SU Karthik's 71-run effort helped Mysore Warriors reach 177 before being bowled out in 18.5 overs with Nithin Nagaraja (3/17) and Yash Raj Punja (3/32) picking three wickets each for the winning side.

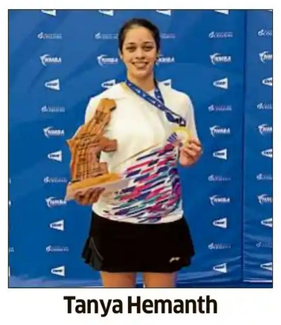
Brief scores: Shivamogga Lions: 127/5 in 15.5 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 44; Shashi Kumar K 2-22) (Rain stopped play & target revised through VJD method: 92) lt to Gulbarga Mystics: 93/0 in 6.3 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 58 n.o., Nikin Jose 34 n.o.). **Result:** Gulbarga Mystics won by 10 wkts.
Mysore Warriors: 177 all out in 18.5 overs (SU Karthik 71, Karthik CA 37, M Venkatesh 26; Nithin Nagaraja 3-17, Yash Raj Punja 3-32, Manvanth Kumar L 2-27) lt to Hubli Tigers: 86/3 in 8.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 45; Gautam Mishra 3-9). (2nd innings reduced to 9 overs due to rain & target revised to 86 through VJD method). **Result:** Hubli Tigers won by 7 wkts.

Karnataka's Tanya clinches title

BENGALURU, DHNS: After enduring three three-game thrillers in her road to the final, Karnataka shuttler Tanya Hemanth secured a straight-game victory to be crowned the women's singles' champion at the Century Insurance Saipan International Challenge in the Northern Marianas Islands on Saturday.

The top-seeded 21-year-old, born in Mysuru, defeated Japan's Kanae Sakai 15-10, 15-8 at the International Challenge tournament on the BWF Calendar.

The win comes as a relief for Tanya, who trains at the HBC Club in Bengaluru, after having lost in the quarterfinal last week at the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open, where she was also seeded no. 1 at the same venue.



Tanya Hemanth

Kipyegon falls short 3000m world record

Chorzow (Poland), AFP: Kenya's Faith Kipyegon just missed out on the long-standing world record in the women's 3,000m at the Silesia Diamond League meet on Saturday.

Six weeks after improving her own world 1,500m record in Eugene, the three-time Olympic and four-time world gold medallist clocked 8min 07.04sec over the non-Olympic distance.

That fell just short of the 8:06.11 world record set by China's Wang Junxia in 1993.

Galahad fancied for feature event

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

Galahad, from the stables of Suleiman Attollahi and to be ridden by Trevor Patel, is fancied to win the Nizam's Gold Cup, the feature event of the Hyderabad races to be run over a distance of mile and a quarter at the races on Sunday. First race starts at 1.30 pm.

1. Doncaster Plate - 1100M: Emerald Touch 1, N R I High Power 2, Infinia 3.
2. Gadwal Plate - 1800M: Silver Arrow 1, Take A Breath 2, Federer 4.
3. Colonel B Santosh Babu Memorial Cup - 2000M: Racing Ruler 1, Dapper Look 2, Freedom Touch 3.
4. Brown Jack Plate - 1100M: Always Special 1, Most Beautiful 2, Anagha 3.
5. Telangana And Andhra Sub Area Cup - 1600M: Secret Saint 1, Get Lucky 2, Nonpariel 3.
6. Nizam's Gold Cup - 2000M: Galahad 1, Pyirte 2, Victor Hugo 3.
7. Karimnagar Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Fashin Icon 1, Cherish The Lady 2, In Proposito 3.

Day's best: Secret Saint.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

Anahat Singh. X

Teen sensation Anahat enters NSW Bega Open final

BEGA (AUSTRALIA), PTI: Teenage Indian squash player Anahat Singh overcame strong challenge from Egypt's Nour Khafagy to enter the final of the NSW Bega Open 2025 on Saturday.

The 17-year-old double Asian Games bronze medallist, who became the youngest Indian to win a medal in the continental showpiece, won the gruelling semifinal 3-2 (10-12, 11-5, 11-5, 10-12, 11-7) in 54 minutes.

The top-seeded Anahat, who became the first Indian woman to reach a PSA Copper final, will take on another Egyptian, Habiba Hani, in the title showdown of the USD 25,000 event.

Habiba, seeded second, defeated fifth-seeded Indian Akanksha Salunkhe 3-1 (11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 11-6) in 42 minutes. Anahat picked up an injury during the match, but she fought hard against her Egyptian opponent, who recently won the HCL Tournament.

THAT BLIND RHODES SCHOLAR

The ABC of safe streets: Reframing the stray dog question

Rahul Bajaj
is a practising lawyer with expertise in disability rights and IP law, and is co-founder of Mission Accessibility. He wears more hats than he can himself sometimes count
@rahul400

The problem posed by stray animals – especially dogs – inhibiting the free movement of people is real, and for many, a daily ordeal. As a person with a disability, I have seen how this plays out. My NGO routinely receives complaints from persons with disabilities (PwDs) who face heightened risks: a dog chasing down a blind person due to their white cane, a nip at a wheelchair wheel or an aggressive bark that forces someone with mobility or sensory limitations into dangerous evasive manoeuvres. The vulnerability is magnified for those who cannot quickly move away or defend themselves.

This is why the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules and the infrastructure built around them feel like a step in the wrong direction. These Rules envisage dogs being sterilised, immunised, and then re-released into the same place from where they were captured. ABC centres, as envisaged in these Rules, are either not in existence or dysfunctional. A short walk in almost any neighbourhood is enough to show that the system is not producing the desired results. This gap between policy and street-level reality is glaring.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's decision to take *suo motu* cognisance of the stray dog menace and its directions dated August 11 are welcome. It is an acknowledgment, at the highest judicial level, that the problem can no longer be left to patchwork solutions or underfunded municipal efforts. The idea of housing stray dogs in shelters or pounds is not in itself objectionable. It is common practice in many countries, and if implemented well, it can protect both human and animal welfare.

The trouble lies not in recognising the problem or proposing decisive measures, but in how the Court has framed its response. First, during the hearing, when a suggestion was made that the Court's directions must be consistent with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Court brushed it aside with the remark that this is an emergency and so *"no law, nothing."* This is worrying. Coming from the apex court, it signals an ends-justify-the-means approach that disregards statutory safeguards. To casually cast aside the governing statute undermines the very constitutional discipline the Court is meant to uphold.

Second, it is beyond dispute that the situation calls for a stern response. But why must such firmness be framed as a zero-sum choice between human beings and animals? When directing that dogs should be picked up and taken to shelters, the Court could easily have paired that with directions to ensure humane capture: avoiding injury, using trained handlers, and minimising distress. To be fair, the text of the order is a lot more balanced than the tone of the hearing. For instance, the Court directs that the competent authorities running the dog shelters must ensure that there is no overcrowding of dogs and that these dogs are duly fed and looked after. It also envisages the adoption of stray dogs by those interested.

Third, the Court's heavy reliance on its contempt powers in this context is an uneasy fit. Contempt is a blunt instrument, best used sparingly. The risk is that municipal bodies or officials, already struggling with inadequate resources, will be more focused on avoiding the Court's wrath than on building sustainable systems that work beyond the short term.

Equally concerning is the rhetoric. In stating that this is "the time to shoot and not to talk", the Court may have intended to convey urgency, but such language risks deepening polarisation between those advocating for human safety and those defending animal rights. Ad hominem attacks on animal rights activists could have been best avoided. The judiciary's example must rest not only on the decisions it hands down, but on the tone and reasoning it models.

The goal should be to prevent injuries and fatalities among people while also ensuring that animals are not subjected to unnecessary suffering. Framing the issue as "people versus dogs" reduces it to an unhelpful binary and distracts from the more constructive question: how can urban governance, veterinary services, and public awareness combine to make coexistence safe and sustainable?

As of this writing, the matter has been referred to a three-judge bench, which will have the opportunity to preserve the core solutions – removing aggressive or unvaccinated strays from the streets, prioritising public safety, and holding local bodies accountable – while tempering the excesses.

The Court was right to take the problem seriously and to signal that half-measures will no longer suffice. But seriousness must go hand in hand with legality, proportionality and compassion. Our streets must be safe for everyone, especially the elderly, children, and PwDs. But our solutions must also reflect the kind of society we aspire to be: one that does not treat vulnerable animals as expendable obstacles.

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

Living free, living 3D

Every Independence Day is an invitation to reflect on both national and personal freedom to choose how we live. In the early decades after 1947, freedom largely meant stability: a secure job, a clear career path, and a predictable workday. Today, in 2025, the definition is shifting. Freedom is increasingly about flexibility, the ability to shape work and life around outcomes, passions, and well-being.

This shift is being accelerated by Artificial Intelligence. AI adoption in workplaces has nearly doubled in the last six months, with 75% of global knowledge workers now using generative AI. The boundaries between careers and gigs are dissolving, as are the rigid 9-to-5 patterns of the past. By 2030, 70% of the skills used in most of the jobs will have changed, and "output over hours" will be the norm. Organisations are moving towards measuring contribution by results rather than presence, enabling what some call flexible boundaries that are structured enough to deliver, and adaptable enough to protect energy, focus, and mental health.

In this environment, I believe we need to live 3D: learn from the past, live in the present, and prepare for the future. Living only for the now may be liberating, but it risks neglecting hard-earned lessons and necessary foresight. A balanced life draws wisdom from history, roots itself in the present, and invests in tomorrow's readiness. This balance requires stamina across the three dimensions of health: mental, physical, and spiritual.

Advances in mental wellness technology, from AI-powered therapy assistants to real-time stress monitors, make it easier to stay attuned to our mental state. Physical health, supported by wearable devices and personalised nutrition, can now be tracked and improved with unprecedented precision. Spiritual health, once tied primarily to organised religion, is evolving toward individual practice: meditation, mindfulness, and purposeful living, which have seen an 180% increase in adoption globally. For me, spiritual health is less about ritual and more about living in alignment with values, empathy, and purpose. Bliss, hence, is not about finding a quiet Himalayan retreat; it is about cultivating silence in the mind, wherever you are. That inner quiet creates the psychological safety to think clearly, connect deeply, and act with intention. These are qualities that workplaces are now recognising as essential for trust and collaboration.

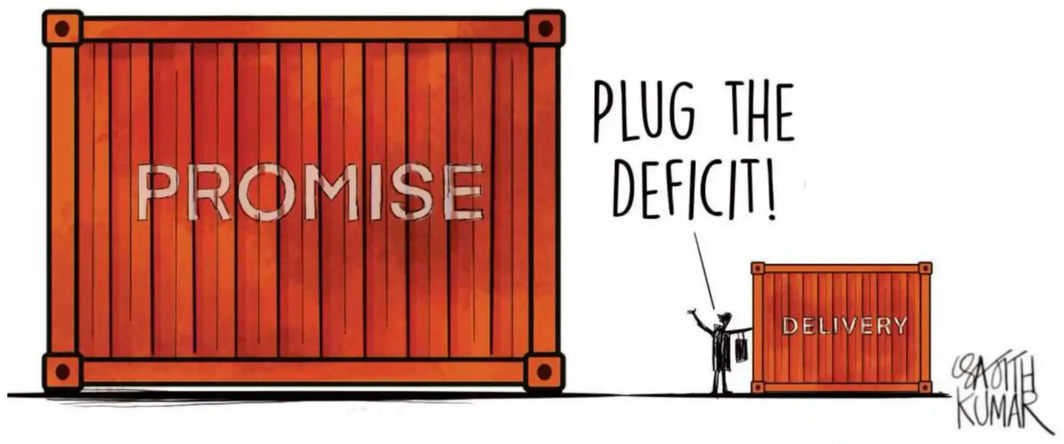
Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
@Gkatragadda

Similarly, in the context of a healthy nation, while we celebrate rising life expectancy, we must recognise it is only half the picture. Health span, the years lived in good health, with the energy to engage fully, is becoming the real measure. Advances in longevity science are making the prospect of a healthy hundred years realistic, but the focus must be on quality, not just quantity.

Over my career, I have witnessed a striking generational shift in leadership and workforce culture, from the Jack Welch style to the Sridhar Vembu style. The Welch era, which shaped much of my early professional life, prized performance intensity, competitive rankings, and relentless execution. It was a model built for scale and shareholder value, often demanding long hours and single-minded focus. In contrast, the Vembu style, exemplified by the Zoho founder, emphasises long-term sustainability, rural talent development, and work-life integration over constant acceleration. It reflects a workforce that values autonomy, purpose, and holistic well-being as much as financial success.

This shift mirrors the broader transition we see today: from tightly structured corporate hierarchies to flexible, human-centred systems that leverage technology, including AI, to enable both productivity and personal growth. And amidst all the technology, metrics, and optimisation, we must remember that being human is more important than chasing superhuman feats. Empathy, humility, and connection are strategic assets. Research shows 77% of employees would work longer hours for a more empathetic employer, and 60% would even accept a pay cut.

To live free is not a life without responsibilities; it is a life where learning, living, and preparing flow into one another, much as India's past, present, and future must be in constant dialogue. As we celebrate another Independence Day, let us also claim our personal independence: to shape lives that are flexible yet focused, technologically enabled yet deeply human, and free not just from constraint, but from imbalance.



THE BIG LENS

India, US and a Cold War throwback

Donald Trump's disruptive moves continue to heighten geopolitical volatility. The latest warning by the US to raise secondary tariffs on India if Trump's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin fail adds to the uncertainty. Trump's statement that Putin agreed to the Alaska meeting because of his additional tariff on India for buying Russian oil says much about the US president's foreign policy framework.

It is doubtful if Trump started the talks with Putin – the first round has been inconclusive – only to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict. After a series of failures in bringing about a ceasefire, Trump now expects Russia and Ukraine to end the war after a bilateral deal that keeps Ukraine out of the negotiations. Ukraine has already protested that there can be no meaning in a truce without Russia vacating the occupied territories in Ukraine. Ukraine can no longer fight the war without the support of the European Union and the US, which is already in withdrawal mode. Russia, on the other hand, appears militarily superior and is negotiating from a position of strength. India has appealed to the two nations to settle the issue between them – "war is not the solution", as Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Putin.

In these circumstances, it is clear that India is not in the way of a ceasefire. So, what is Trump concerned about? If his intention through the talks is to stop the war, he has to accommodate Ukraine and worry about building consensus among the two parties in conflict. But strangely, the US has threatened to hike tariffs on India if the talks fail. Trump's actions are influenced by India's refusal to stop buying Russian oil and New Delhi's general non-submission to his whims and fancies.

India has made it clear that it would continue to buy oil from Russia or any other source as long as the price is competitive and its energy security needs are taken care of. Besides energy needs, New Delhi is determined to fortify its defence capabilities to secure its borders, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and become more competitive in exports. High tariffs hinder exports, and India needs to overcome these hurdles put in its way by the Trump administration. New Delhi would be ready to settle the tariff-related issues bilaterally with the US to the best advantage of the two countries, but conduct its external trade with the rest of the world, and formulate foreign policy within the framework of strategic autonomy. No country can dictate economic and foreign policy prescriptions to New Delhi.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS
@seshadrichari

In this context, it is important for American policymakers, especially Trump, to understand that India values its relations with the US as an equal partner sharing democratic values and human dignity. A breakdown of mutually beneficial economic engagement, a serious trust deficit, and stark divergence in strategic and geopolitical outlook are, undeniably, prescriptions for going back to the time of "estranged democracies" from the Cold War era.

Soon after attaining independence and during the initial years of the Cold War, New Delhi pursued a policy of non-alignment but tilted more towards the then Soviet Union, which strongly supported India and vetoed anti-India resolutions in the United Nations. Post-Cold War American presidents made important course corrections and avoided hyphenating an economically emerging, democratic India with a radical Islamist Pakistan, a failed economy, and a breeding ground for terrorists.

But the trigger-happy generals of Pakistan were quick to shift their allegiance to China and firm up benefits under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Now, the generals have pulled the red carpet from under Beijing's feet and are rolling out a green corridor for Trump in Balochistan, for the Americans to dig for non-existent oil. Only the naïve would believe that China and America will work together in Pakistan for the benefit of the three without causing harm to their respective national interests and self-esteem.

Trump is free to allow himself to be taken for a ride in the wild deserts of Balochistan. He would be well advised not to burn bridges with India, now a strong economy which is self-sufficient in defence and nuclear capabilities. India is a Global South leader, and it has successfully displayed its worldview of peace and progress as against the American agenda of fuelling the domestic economy through wars and an arms race. Trump's erratic trade and foreign policies will hurt American interests domestically and globally, more than causing any serious setback to India's goals or global stature.

ROVING REFLECTIONS

Counting on democracy

Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote *chori* are unambiguously directed at the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the ruling BJP's influence on the functioning of the commission. The Congress and its allies have consistently made charges against the EC over multiple issues – from suspicious handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to scheduling of election dates to accommodate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election campaigns to exclusion of voters from electoral rolls. The EC's Special Intensive Revision in Bihar, just ahead of an Assembly election, is a politically contentious exercise. The commission's insistence on proof of birth and other documents risks the disenfranchisement of millions, including legitimate immigrants with voter IDs and Aadhaar cards.

However, it needs to be noted that Rahul and the Congress leadership had no complaints when the party and its allies tasted electoral victories in states including Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. The big 2024 success in the Uttar Pradesh Parliament election, in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, and the wins secured by Rahul and Priyanka Vadra were not followed up with such apprehensions either.

Of course, none of this is to give a clean chit to the EC. There are genuine misgivings about its actions in the minds of the public. Eminent former election commissioners and the media have questioned the way the commission has been conducting itself. The onus is now on the EC to remove the suspicions about the integrity of its processes.

The charges and counter-charges had me recall my flirtations with politics and its perils. After my service in the Army, I took to farming in rural Hassan. I was invited by some well-wishers and professionals, like lawyers and auditors with an RSS association, to join the BJP and take over as the president of its Hassan unit. It was the late 1980s; the party was trying to rebuild by bringing more professionals into its fold. I was asked to head the unit, not because I was politically astute, but because no one was vying for that post.

Capt G R Gopinath (Retd.)
builds bridges, sometimes by tearing down walls. He is a soldier, farmer, and entrepreneur

The BJP was a weak force in Karnataka then and a big zero in Hassan. Two titans from the rival camps ruled the roost – the late H C Srikantaiah from Congress and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda of the JD(S). I campaigned valiantly from the rural Gandasi Assembly constituency. Violent skirmishes between the intoxicated cadres of the two dominant parties were common. Then, there were no EVMs to be manipulated – we had printed ballot papers. But booth capturing and intimidation of polling booth officials was rampant. Even though there was tampering of ballots, there was no widespread acrimony over the results that went the popular candidates' way.

I lost miserably and even lost my deposit. Not because of rigging but because I was a political non-entity. I quit politics after that drubbing as it dawned on me that it was easier to fight wars than elections. I was, clearly, a misfit.

I met three senior civil servants from the IAS over dinner a few months ago. One of them had returned from the Parliament election, followed by an Assembly election, while the others had vast experience in electoral matters after having served in the ranks of Deputy Commissioner and above. They agreed that the EC under the BJP dispensation is compromised. They did not approve of the electoral roll revision in Bihar, which furthers an agenda of exclusion. But they maintained that these were not the same as wilful tampering of processes to swing elections. This took me to the key question I had: Is it possible to rig the elections on a large scale, as suggested in the allegations? All three were of the emphatic opinion that it was not possible.

The Republic has evolved through its democratic processes. The EVMs replacing the ballot is also a shift integral to this evolution. These are times marked by concerns over the autonomy of institutions, including the EC. But the course correction should not always be about returning to the old. How about embracing the new and making it better? In today's India, it is important to revisit what Tom Stoppard said – "It's not the voting that's democracy; it's the counting."

DHARMA

The mysterious deaths of Bhakti saints

Devdutt Pattanaik
works with gods and demons who churn nectar from the ocean of Indian, Chinese, Islamic, Christian, even secular mythologies

In the 12th century, in the Gujarat and Maharashtra region, there was a man called Chakradhar Swami who spoke of devotion to Krishna. His Krishna Bhakti did not involve Radha. It was Advaita and valourised purity and celibacy. However, according to one highly contested legend, he faced opposition from the local Brahmin community. Under the influence of local Brahmins, the Yadava king sent soldiers to behead him. Chakradhar Swami, however, survived the attack; his headless body reportedly picked up his head, fixed it on the severed neck. Thus resurrected, he travelled to the Himalayas to become a yogi. Similar tales of confrontation between Bhakti saints and Brahmins are found in different parts of India.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, a 15th-century saint from Bengal, was a popular figure who had a large following in Puri, Odisha. His idea of public singing and adoration of Radha was not much appreciated by the local priests, who preferred a more intellectual approach to the divine through *sakha bhav* (friendship). Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, we are told, merged with the image of Jagannath. However, his many biographies, written centuries later, offer various explanations: some claim he walked into the sea and disappeared; others suggest he was found outside the temple. There is even a theory that he was attacked and killed by the local Puri Brahmins. None of these theories can be proven, but Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's death remains a mystery and a source of speculation.

The Marathi saint Tukaram, famous for his *abhangas* to Pandharpur, the local form of Krishna in Maharashtra, is said to have been bodily taken to Vaikuntha, a concept that appears in many illustrations and films. Is this a metaphor for dying a natural death or a violent one, considering his vernacular poetry faced opposition from the puritans, who believed God's word should only be presented in Sanskrit?

Mirabai, the great Bhakti poet and Rajput princess, annoyed her Rajput family with her public wanderings and singing. We are told that she also merged with the image of Krishna at Dwarka. What does this mean? Should it be interpreted literally or metaphorically? Feminists argue it could be an instance of honour killing, while the faithful insist it was a spiritual, magical, and miraculous event, unrelated to mundane earthly politics.

The Nayanar saint Nandanar, active as early as the 8th or 9th century in Tamil Nadu, was a low-caste devotee of Shiva. He sang praises and sought access to a Shiva temple. It is said that the only way he could enter was by purifying himself with fire, which he did. Is this a metaphor for being burnt alive or a ritualistic explanation of his transformation and acceptance into the upper caste's purified realms?

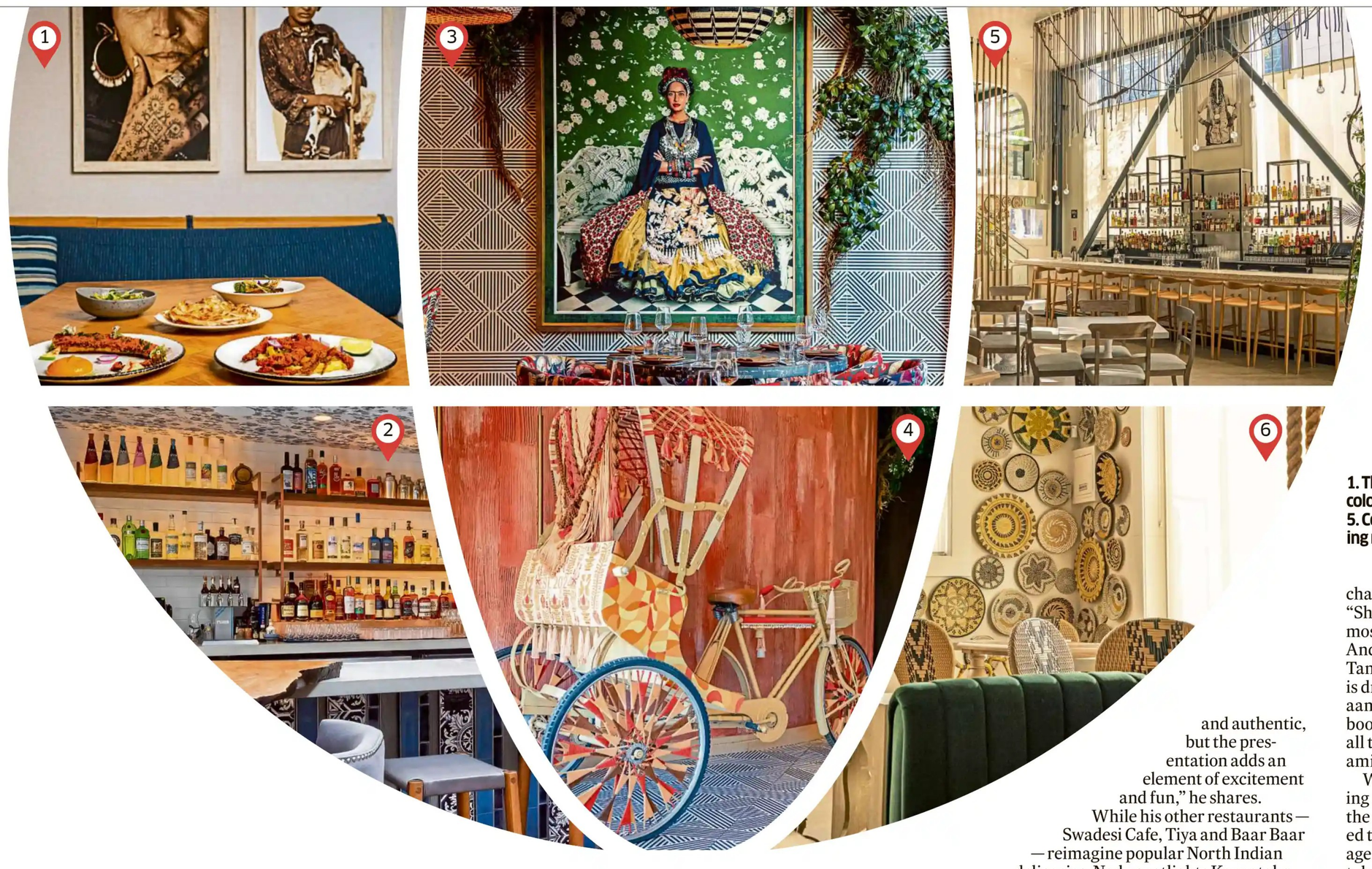
The recurring motif of saints who challenge orthodoxy dying mysterious deaths, performing *samadhi* (voluntarily leaving their lives at a young age, as in the case of Gyandev), raises questions. Are these stories attempting to communicate something constrained by the censorship of their times? One cannot help but wonder if there is more to these narratives than meets the eye.

Even today, we find different schools of thought vying to dominate the religion. The Sanatani "veg" Dharma is currently trying to claim the supreme position, often with government support. For the first time in history, Hinduism is being taught through the Manusmriti in educational institutions rather than through epic tales, Bhakti poetry or Vedanta philosophy. We are being told that the Vaishnava text, *Bhagavad Gita*, is the holiest book of Hinduism, mimicking the concept of the holy book of monotheistic religions.

But the Sri Vaishnava brahmins of Srirangam prefer the *Vishnu Puran* and venerate Garuda, while the Madhva brahmins of Udupi follow the *Bhagavata Puran*, and venerate Hanuman. The Pushti Margis of Gujarat follow a Hinduism very different from the Swaminarayan Margis, also popular in Gujarat. Hinduism has never been homogeneous. Brahmins in positions of power have sought to impose their way, wiping out alternate ideas, as the history of Bhakti informs us.

This is not unique to Hinduism. The Catholics follow the Pope in Rome. The Orthodox Christians follow leaders in Russia and Greece. Protestants have their own churches. Some Churches allow priests to marry. Some allow same-sex marriage. Some refuse to give women reproductive rights. No one sees eye to eye. Islam has been full of rival schools. The Shias, Sunnis, and Sufis do not agree on many matters, and the violent confrontation continues. Buddhist schools were always quarrelsome. Even the Mauryan emperor Ashoka could not get them to align and agree.

Religion is meant to spiritually elevate us. But it ends up as a political tool. Here, independent thinkers are most feared. Bhakti Hindu saints were the wild mountain goats who walked their own path. The Brahmin shepherds of Hinduism preferred the obedient sheep and cows.



India's regional cuisine is going global with a vengeance. Chefs are blending authenticity and innovation, elevating flavours from Kerala and Kashmir to Odisha and Tamil Nadu, winning Michelin stars and reshaping culinary perceptions, discovers Rashmi Rajagopal

1. The dining area in Ettan. 2. Ettan's interiors. 3. Eylan's colourful bar area. 4. A rickshaw welcomes diners at Eylan. 5. Copra's bar and dining room. 6. A detail from Copra's dining room. Pics courtesy: Chad Santo Tomas and Patricia Chang

WHEN SAMBAR MET CAVIAR

The global culinary map has, of late, been witnessing a proliferation of Indian restaurants offering hyper-regional dishes from the subcontinent. This has sparked fresh interest in the country's foodscape. It's a post-Covid phenomenon, points out noted Bengaluru-based chef Manu Chandra.

"While chefs like Vineet Bhatia and Atul Kochhar have been championing Indian food overseas for decades, it is incredible to see the sheer number of restaurants popping up," he states, adding that the new crop of Indian chefs is more vocal and unabashed about what they do.

The Indian diaspora has become a lot more affluent, and they are seeking luxurious experiences, which include dining on exquisitely created and presented food from their home country. Regional Indian restaurants have been around, but they were unassuming, never premium or upscale. Chandra recalls enjoying a leisurely Bengali meal many years ago at a tiny basement restaurant in New

Green apple and avocado chaat

York City, with Padma Lakshmi and Salman Rushdie as his dinner companions.

Medu vadai in Japantown

Amid the many ramen shops and sushi restaurants in San Francisco's affluent Pacific Heights neighbourhood sits Copra, a restaurant specialising in Kerala and Tamil Nadu cuisine. Located at the intersection of Post and Fillmore Streets, it stands out from the profusion of Japanese restaurants — an elegant, stark white building that simply draws you in with the words 'Copra' at the top of its facade. Started by chef Srijith Gopinathan and Ayesha Thapar, a restaurateur, it opened its doors in February 2023.

Just a few buildings away from bowls of miso soup and plates of California rolls, one can tuck into crisp medu vadai — described as a 'lentil fritter' and served with vegetable sambar and coconut chutney, or kori gassi, the much-loved Mangalurean chicken dish cooked with byadgi chilli, coconut, tamarind, and paired with Kerala parotta.

Gopinathan and Thapar together run two other restaurants in California — Ettan in Palo Alto and Eylan in Menlo Park. While the former offers eclectic Indian food, the latter prides itself on its wood-fired grilled kebabs. "About 55-60 per cent of our clientele is non-Indian," shares Gopinathan, who has been living and working in the US for the past 20 years. He has witnessed first-hand the changing perceptions around Indian food. The cuisine is no longer synonymous with butter chicken and 'naan bread'. "There has been a lot more awareness in recent years," he notes, adding that the change can be attributed to the growing Indian diaspora.

"Additionally, a lot of Indian chefs, trained professionally, have invested and set up their own restaurants in the US. Earlier too, Indian restaurants were run by Indians, but they were rarely professionally trained," he points out.

Often, that training finds expression in the plating. Once considered 'ugly delicious', chefs are proving that Indian food can look pretty as well. For instance, Copra's crab dish is served in a silver kadai with a single crisply fried crab topped with pink and purple flowers, shaved greens and artfully placed coriander leaves.

Hyperlocal on the plate

Innovation is at the heart of these menus. While staying true to tradition, they find it necessary to think outside the box and push the envelope. It is not unusual to find hyperlocal ingredients paired with produce that simply does not exist in the Indian culinary vocabulary. At Eylan, which opened in January this year, a bread named 'Eylan eye' brings together eggs, truffle, coconut vinaigrette and chives. At Ettan, for 115$ a pop, one can treat oneself to caviar paired with creme fraiche, eggs and kulcha. "Earlier, cuisines like Indian and Thai were considered cheap food. But those days are long gone," says Gopinathan.

When Vijay Kumar started working as a chef, Indian food was seen as rich, heavy and one-dimensional. In 2021, he opened Semma in New York's Greenwich Village, a neighbourhood in Manhattan. It specialises in the cuisines of South India. The very next year, it earned a Michelin star. In 2025, *The New York Times* named it the No. 1 restaurant in that city out of 20,000 others. Kumar says, "People are now curious about hyper-regional dishes, and the real stories behind those dishes. We serve South Indian food the way it's meant to be — no shortcuts — and guests are embracing it. The appetite for authenticity has grown, and so has the respect for the depth of Indian cuisine."

While some chefs experiment with unusual flavour pairings and ingredients, Kumar tries to stay true to original recipes — ones that he grew up with. The flavours, he says, are bold, rooted and "almost exactly how they would be served at home."

"Early on in my career, I felt pressure to tone things down, but I've learned that guests respond to honesty. If a dish is made with care and conviction, they're open to trying it even if it challenges their palate. Authenticity isn't a barrier anymore; it's the draw," he states.

Sujan Sarkar

Srijith Gopinathan

Some of Semma's most popular dishes are the Gunpowder Dosa and Mattu Iraichi Sukka. The former is a traditional masala dosa served with sambar, and the latter is a beef fry spiced with black cardamom and Thalasherry peppers. "I think what makes them resonate is the clarity — you taste the fire, the technique, the tradition. There's nothing watered down or over-explained. It's real food," he notes. Diners, he believes, want real experiences, and chefs have stopped adapting to fit in. "Indian chefs are truly showing the diversity of India, from Kerala to Kashmir, and people are realising how vast the cuisine really is," he elaborates.

Misunderstood cuisine

Due to the efforts of the new wave of chefs who are shining a light on India's layered regional cuisines, it is finally starting to get the respect it deserves. "But we're still catching up," Kumar points out. Cuisines such as Japanese and Thai have had global platforms for longer, with more consistent representation. On the other hand, although Indian food is just as rich and complex, it was misunderstood for a long time. "That's changing now, and the momentum is strong," he shares.

Chef Sujan Sarkar opened Indienne in Chicago in 2017 — back when Indian food "had just started gaining recognition for its sophistication and potential to be viewed as an elegant cuisine." Sarkar, who runs multiple restaurants across the US, highlights the depth of Indian food in his cooking. Apart from becoming a fine dining experience, Indian cuisine is also gaining momentum across all formats — from casual dining to cafes and even pop-ups.

Indienne, which received its first Michelin star in 2023, is sought after for two dishes: First Bite-Pani Puri, and Galouti Éclair. "These dishes are popular because the flavours are still familiar and authentic, but the presentation adds an element of excitement and fun," he shares.

While his other restaurants — Swadesi Cafe, Tiya and Baar Baar — reimagine popular North Indian delicacies, Nadu spotlights Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala food in addition to other cuisines that are yet to be fully explored, such as that of Odisha and West Bengal. "Our benne dosa is the star. It's the real deal — as close to the benne dosa you would get in Bengaluru."

Since chef Sameer Taneja took over the reins from Atul Kochhar at Benares in 2019, he has been instrumental in the London restaurant earning back its Michelin star. "I came to England to cook European food. That is what I was trained in. I thought Indian food did not have a future. But I was so wrong," Taneja shares. Years before joining Benares, he was working with celebrated chef Pierre Koffmann, when the Frenchman asked Taneja to cook something from their menu but with spices. It was not because his French cooking did not pass muster, but because Koffmann believed Taneja had the potential to make history cooking Indian food.

Indian with European techniques

However, chefs like Taneja also find it necessary to incorporate European cooking techniques and ingredients to offer diners something novel. "In the UK, Indian food has been a staple for a long time, but diners are always looking for something new and offbeat. At the same time, the flavours are expected to be authentic. We get questions if they are not. Our British customers are well-travelled and India is a popular tourist destination for Londoners, so they know what Indian food tastes like," Taneja explains.

Consequently, the spices are not toned down or replaced, but local produce is used, and sometimes, Indian staples are cooked the English way. At Benares, the baked fish biryani is cooked and served as one would a beef Wellington. The fish is deboned, stuffed with quail eggs and basmati rice cooked in fish stock. It is covered with puff pastry, shaped like a fish and baked. "It is also reminiscent of dum biryani," he adds.

One dish that holds special meaning for Taneja is the oyster and sea bream chaat, which is inspired by his mother. "She is not a great cook, but she is the most hospitable person I have ever met. And she makes the best aam panna," says Taneja. The cured sea bream and oyster is dressed with tiger milk made from aam panna, and it is served with crunchy boondi, fresh mint and lime zest. It ticks all the flavour boxes — sweet, spicy, umami, sour and bitter.

When Chandra was tasked with helming the kitchen at the India pavilion at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, he wanted to honour his roots but also pay homage to the cuisine of the host country. His take on vada pav — vada in brioche buns — and paniyaram madeleines became instant hits at the festival and went viral on social media. "Innovation is key — one has to be creative," he reiterates. It is something that some of the greatest Indian restaurants across the globe have in common — be it Tresind Studio in Dubai, Haoma in Bangkok, or Chaat in Hong Kong. Cities like Sydney, Melbourne and even Perth in Australia are big on not just Indian food, but 'good-looking Indian food', Chandra says.

Regional cuisines, luxury dining, innovative cooking techniques, unusual flavour pairings — Indian food is definitely witnessing a transformation globally. But Chandra believes it is only the beginning.

Bay leaf slice at Copra

An innovative dessert at Indienne

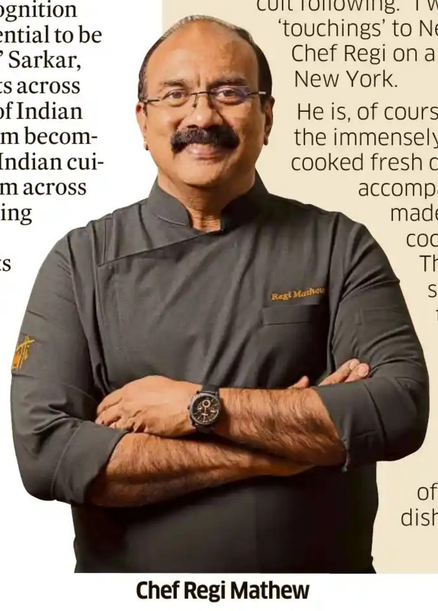
A nod to toddy shop cuisine in NY

The latest addition to the list of chefs who are crossing the seas to let international diners know there is more to Indian cuisine than naan and butter chicken is Chef Regi Mathew. Well-known in India for Kappa Chakka Kandhari, which has outlets in Chennai and Bengaluru, Chef Regi has now opened Chatti at New York's Garment District, a few blocks from Times Square. The name Chatti refers to the traditional clay pot found in Kerala's toddy shops and homes, and the cuisine too is Chef Regi's take on toddy shop food – a tradition unique to Kerala but one with a cult following. "I wanted to introduce 'touchings' to New Yorkers," says Chef Regi on a phone call from New York.

He is, of course, talking about the immensely delicious, slow-cooked fresh dishes that typically accompany toddy, a drink made from the sap of coconut or palm trees. These small plates, somewhat akin to the Spanish Tapas platters, contain dishes made of seafood and meat, and are meant for a shared culinary experience. Some of the chef's signature dishes include prawn pouches, toddy shop beef fry, tender jackfruit cutlets, and the not-to-be-missed 'Karimeen Pollichathu' that's wrapped in banana leaf and grilled. "Chatti is about camaraderie, stories, laughter and the same spirit of community found in toddy shops," says Chef Regi, adding that the restaurant, despite its minimalist design, channels a similar vibrance in its seating and interiors. Chef Regi believes there will soon be an "explosion of Indian regional cuisine" in America as well as Europe. "I do not want to be left behind; I want to be a part of this impending food revolution," he says.

RASHMI VASUDEVA

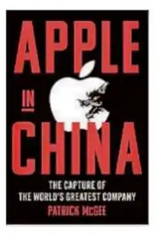
The spread at Chatti. Pic courtesy: Lah Studios


Chef Regi Mathew

Patrick McGee's engrossing book charts Apple's deep ties with the Asian giant, now threatened by the ongoing tensions with the US and globalisation's limits, writes Gunjan Singh

Beijing's bite

Technology generation and ownership have emerged as pivotal fault lines in the contemporary rivalry between the United States and China. Patrick McGee's book arrives at a particularly opportune moment, as the world — China foremost among its actors — remains deeply embroiled in an escalating trade war with Washington. The second Trump administration has sharpened geopolitical uncertainties: Beijing has retaliated to tariff threats by weaponising its dominance over rare earths, manufacturing capacity, and global supply chains, while imposing counter-tariffs of its own.



APPLE IN CHINA
Patrick McGee
S&S, pp 448, Rs 899

The world understands that today, Apple, one of the most lucrative and profitable American firms, is dependent on Beijing. The general perception is that Apple needs China to survive. While this dependence is widely acknowledged, the precise mechanics of how it evolved — and why — remain less understood. McGee juxtaposes these two realities with skill. In addition, at the outset, the author asserts that the book "isn't about the globalisation of electronics, but rather, about its Chinafication" and further argues that, ".... China wouldn't be China today without Apple".

One can rightly conclude that Apple today is in the middle of a major geopolitical uncertainty. The author marshals extensive research, data, and anecdotes, offering rare insights into the workings of one of the world's most secretive companies. The effort undertaken is enormous, and the outcome is interesting and intriguing. The general perception is that Apple outsources production to China; however, the author asserts that, ".... Apple had only dozens of people involved in its Asia operations, but the team would expand wildly over the next decade, exerting such a degree of control that the term outsourcing would become misleading if not wholly incorrect."

With the advent of Xi Jinping, the domestic political dynamics in China have mutated rapidly. Xi's policies have pushed every country to rethink and revisit its policies towards Beijing. Xi has changed the Western belief that economic growth will ultimately push Beijing to change its political apparatus. The author explains, "China might be mimicking the West, but it wasn't actually becoming Western....".

However, what has happened is that China under Xi is looking inwards and getting increasingly aggressive. Xi understands the centrality of China to the global economy and is poised to benefit from this position. The author explains this when he writes,

A woman walks past the iconic glass cylindrical entrance of the Apple store in Chongqing's central business district.

"Behind its unprecedented financial success in the country was a dizzying array of problems, and the tech giant had far too few people on the ground with the cultural and political acumen to address them. Then, amid the confusion, Beijing selected a new general secretary to lead the Chinese Communist Party." To complicate matters for Apple, "The fate of all of the company's hardware production relies on the good graces of America's largest rival." Apple, too, was taken by surprise.

What one can perceive is that Apple failed to grasp the omnipresence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in every aspect of the Chinese economy and policies. The CCP understands and plays a very central role in how foreign investors can or cannot do business in China. From the outset, it has been very pro-joint ventures. Especially with the idea of gaining technology and know-how. Under Xi, the dictum is clear: that China has to move up the manufacturing ladder. To do that, it needs to build newer cutting-edge technologies. The desire to manufacture and design chips and semiconductors is rooted in this notion.

The author explains this when he says that, "The party's whole reform program was meant to lure in capital and Western businesses as a way of learning, so China could reverse-engineer the technology, replicate it, and then replace it". What Apple did is not only outsource materials and components, but it also sent its own engineers and technicians to train the Chinese engineers. "Cook didn't want Apple to be the developer of the world, and it wasn't. It did, however, become the developer for China".

Today, Apple recognises the need to loosen its ties with Beijing, yet finds itself entangled in multiple geopolitical flashpoints: US–China tensions, Beijing's posture toward Taiwan and the risks to TSMC, as well as India–China frictions. The company is also implicated in debates over human rights, labour conditions, and environmental sustainability.

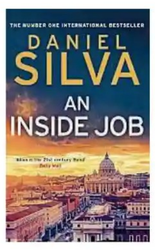
Over decades, Apple helped cultivate China's manufacturing ecosystem — an intricate web of skills, processes, and supply relationships that cannot be replicated quickly elsewhere. "What China offers, in other words, is not simply labour, but an entire ecosystem of processes developed over more than two decades". This relationship has also been successful because China has shown equal keenness to learn and adapt, while Apple has been ready to teach. It is not a simple outsourcing business. However, today, the dependence can be seen as a weakness for Apple as it may not be able to replicate the model fast enough to continue meeting its demands. As a corporation which is supposed to be profitable, Apple has been remarkably successful; however, as McGee underscores, Chinese nationalism poses a persistent risk, forcing Apple to navigate between competing nationalisms with extraordinary caution.

In the end, Apple's story stands as a cautionary tale about the limits of globalisation—and a reminder that realpolitik, not market logic, ultimately shapes the world order.

The reviewer is an Associate Professor at OP Jindal Global University.

Silva's plot twists lose some spark

Art restorer and former spy Gabriel Allon, who recently completed a rather disquieting assignment in Cornwall, is back. He is chilling in Venice when he spots a body bobbing in the lagoon, and then it all unravels before you can say da Vinci! An Inside Job is Daniel Silva's latest caper in which everyone, in fact, keeps uttering (err...muttering) da Vinci throughout its nearly 400 pages. Turns out the body is that of a former Vatican apprentice who has stumbled upon, yes, a previously undiscovered portrait by da Vinci. As you can well imagine, this ensures that our favourite, seriously good-looking art restorer (this reviewer cannot help but imagine George Clooney acing such a role) takes off on a globe-trotting mission to hunt for the missing portrait. Along the way, we meet conniving priests, laidback members of the Carabinieri, sleek criminals and bungling bankers, among others.



AN INSIDE JOB
Daniel Silva
HarperCollins, pp 402, Rs 499

Gabriel is as charismatic as ever and increasingly world-weary. And yet, his morality does not allow him to sit tight ever. That said, this is not one of Silva's greatest outings. There have been better ones: A Death in Cornwall, for instance, where he is searching for a stolen Picasso, has a much tighter plot and better twists. An Inside Job often gets stuck in a loop of Vatican details — there's only so much priestly skullduggery one can take!

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Poetic plea for social change

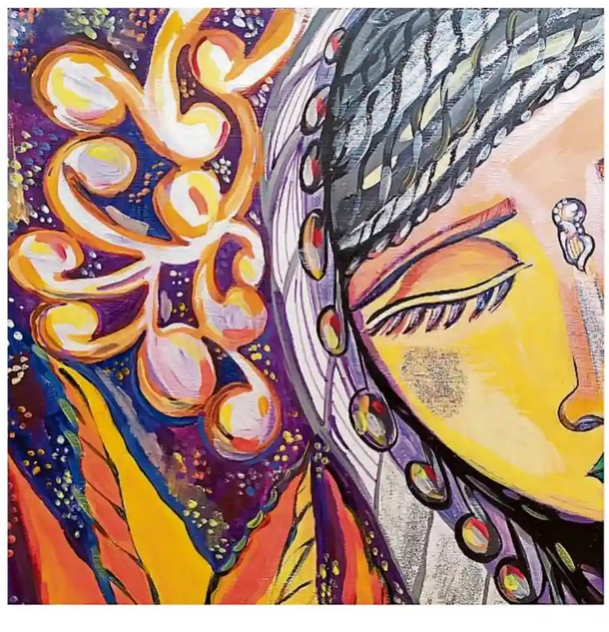
'I trace my skin through rivers and glass./I'm the goddess who earned her stripes.' These are the concluding lines of the poem that give this collection its title. Often powerful, sometimes lyrical, sometimes banal, and sometimes resembling spoken poetry, these 30-odd poems by Vaishnavi S Kabadi are a sincere though idealistic attempt to nudge and shake a distracted, indifferent society out of its daily stupor.

GODDESS WHO EARNED HER STRIPES
Vaishnavi S Kabadi
Ukiyoto, pp 62, Rs 150

Here are poems that tackle everything from sexual abuse to consent among couples to women unable to reclaim public spaces and female sexual pleasure. Sample this poem titled 'Tinted Windows': *'I've lived through a generation/That had to cancel tinted windows on cars/Instead of teaching their men they shouldn't abuse.'* Ah, well.

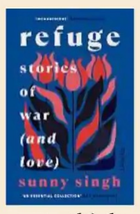
Free-flowing in their form and metre, the poems are an exasperated cry — this is the poet pulling the reader by her hand into the murky ugliness of our society and telling her to open her eyes, see, experience, linger; for only then can she strive for change.

RASHMI VASUDEVA



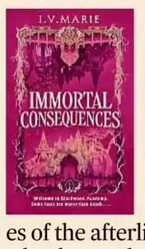
BOOKRACK

WHEN MUMMY HAD CANCER
Priyanka Pandya Bhatt
Harper Children's, pp 32, Rs 399
This is a touching story about a family's journey through a challenging time, told from a child's perspective. Life is full of joy for the little girl, but everything changes when Mummy discovers she has cancer.

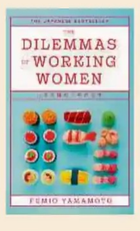


REFUGE: STORIES OF WAR (AND LOVE)
Sunny Singh
HarperCollins, pp 208, Rs 499
Spanning both decades and continents, this book turns its lens on those who are often overlooked in war stories: women and children, civilians, and soldiers who commit unspeakable violence.

BOATS IN A STORM
Kalyani Ramnath
Context, pp 312, Rs 699
Drawing on archival materials from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, London, and Singapore, the author shows how decolonisation was ultimately marked not only by shipwrecked empires but also by these forgotten stories of wartime displacements.



IMMORTAL CONSEQUENCES
I V Marie
HarperCollins, pp 464, Rs 400
Welcome to Blackwood Academy: a boarding school located on the fringes of the afterlife. No one knows why they end up at Blackwood, though...



THE DILEMMAS OF WORKING WOMEN
Fumio Yamamoto and Brian Bergstrom (translator)
Hachette, pp 288, Rs 499
In this classic Japanese bestseller, the lives of five ordinary women are depicted with irresistible humour and searing emotional insight.

Hope and spunk in unpredictable terrain

Through the lives of four women, Yang paints an intriguing portrait of contemporary China with all its contradictions, writes Saudha Kasim

Yuan Yang, the first Chinese-born British MP and a former journalist, spent her early childhood being cared for by her maternal grandparents in a place that 'straddled' the gap between the rural and the urban in the Sichuanese mountains. Her grandparents lived in a danwei or Communist work unit, purpose-built under Mao's leadership to house the workers of China's first semiconductor materials factory.

The book weaves together the real-life stories of four women coming of age in a China that has long left behind Maoism. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

Yang, who was born in 1990, describes these early experiences of living with her grandparents in the preface to her book, Private Revolutions, which weaves together the real life stories of four women coming of age in a China that has long left behind Maoism and embraced an authoritarian capitalism that began under Deng Xiaoping's leadership in the early 1980s. These women — Leiya, June, Siyue, and Sam — come from different backgrounds ranging from rural villages to the urban middle class but have one thing in common: they are, as Yang writes, '...unusually accomplished idealists; if they weren't, they wouldn't have tried to do improbable things.'

PRIVATE REVOLUTIONS
Yuan Yang
Bloomsbury, pp 312, Rs 599

Shortlisted for the 2025 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, Private Revolutions first introduces us to Siyue as a dreamy eight-year-old unfit for rote learning, which is the norm in Chinese schools. She lives in a village with her maternal grandmother, while her parents, who took a bet on entrepreneurship during the early years of the Reform era, move to various cities as their fortunes rise and fall. But even that distance from Siyue doesn't prevent her overbearing mother from having an outsize influence on her childhood that verges on the abusive. What provides Siyue with an escape is her love for reading, especially English literature.

Siyue's academic travails continue through university, but all those missteps and experimenting with designing her own English classes, as well as the entrepreneurial spirit she inherited from her parents, help her become a first-mover in the private tutoring industry that flourished in China for almost a decade. What ends that phase of Siyue's professional growth is a government ban on for-profit tutoring in 2021.

That ban would also affect the professional fortunes of June, another of the women Yang profiles in the book. As a child, June, whose mother died in an accident in a coal mine when she was in school, was part of a larger cohort of 'left-behind children' in the mountain village where she lived with her illiterate father and grandfather. June has to cross the hurdles of inadequate rural schooling, limited access to better schools in a nearby county town, and then pass the entrance exams to a good university in the city. After a brief wayward phase, the arrival of an inspirational teacher in her village steers June towards academic excellence and, eventually, a career in China's tech sector.

Whether an individual can make changes at the grassroots level is a common theme that threads through the lives of the remaining two women in Yang's quartet. Through Leiya, who sets up centres for mothers who work in factories to socialise and navigate the challenges of being migrants in cities, Yang shows how small labour NGOs are trying to make a tangible difference in the lives of some of the most marginalised in Chinese cities. It is hard work — which means not just negotiating red tape and scrabbling for limited funding but also trying to educate workers on their rights (albeit in a way that doesn't attract the censure — and worse — of the powers-that-be).

The most compelling story in Private Revolutions is that of Sam, who starts out as a sociology student from an urban middle-class family and gradually turns into an activist trying to revive the Marxist ideals on which the modern Chinese nation had been founded. When the government cracks down on Marxist activists in 2018-19 — yes, a country that proudly flaunts the visual markers of Communism arrested those who put the ideology into practice — Sam somehow escapes detention. Even though she helps fellow activists get legal representation to fight their cases, Sam doesn't feel she has done enough for the movement and questions whether she can be a true revolutionary leader like her icons from the early days of the Communist Party.

Through the lives of these four women, Yang paints an intriguing portrait of contemporary China with all its contradictions, its astonishing economic progress and now the ever-widening income inequality, which makes social mobility harder for the people than before. Even though Leiya, June, Siyue, and Sam live in a country where life is deeply unpredictable, there's some hope to be gleaned from these women's openness to new ideas and self-transformation.

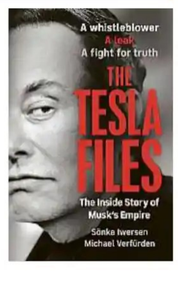
READ OF THE WEEK

When an anonymous whistleblower and ex-Tesla employee approached the German business newspaper *Handelsblatt* in November 2022, its newsroom was stunned. The allegations were astounding, offering an unprecedented glimpse inside the world's most secretive and impenetrable automaker.

So began a relentless pursuit for truth in an investigation to piece together the inner workings of Elon Musk's empire. What emerged was a company that values hype over substance; at its heart, a CEO who demands devotion and rules through fear.

A riveting behind-the-scenes chronicle of fearless investigative journalism and an astonishing exposé of what lies under the bonnet of the world's most famous car company, The Tesla Files is the story of what happens when the line between tech empire and political power blurs and what it takes to challenge the richest man in the world.

Sonke Iwersen is an award-winning journalist who has led the investigative team at Germany's top business newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, since 2012. Iwersen also teaches at the Georg von Holtzbrinck School for Business Journalists and hosts the acclaimed podcast *Handelsblatt Crime*. Michael Verfurden is a distinguished investigative journalist at Handelsblatt, renowned for his in-depth reporting.



Waiter, there's a shroom in my BREW!

Much ado about matcha

Among the most popular ingredients in the wellness beverage world is matcha — finely ground green tea powder packed with antioxidants, calming L-theanine, and metabolic benefits. No longer confined to lattes, matcha is now showing up in everything from smoothies and sparkling waters to even tempura platters!

At Hachi by Tenya, a modern Japanese restaurant, chefs Nagai and Takahashi are unconventionally exploring matcha's versatility. "While there are many types of salt traditionally served with tempura, we use a blend of salt and matcha powder to bring out the most authentic flavour," explains Chef Nagai. "The salt enhances the natural flavours of the ingredients, while the subtle bitterness of matcha adds a refined accent."

They take it further by incorporating matcha into desserts. "We toss banana tempura in a mix of matcha salt and powdered sugar," says Chef Takahashi. "The sweetness of the banana is balanced by the slight bitterness of the matcha, creating a well-rounded Japanese-style dessert."

Whether it's a cup of coffee laced with mushrooms for focus, a calming herbal *chai* to aid sleep, or a sprinkle of matcha on your dessert, today's teas and coffees are no longer just about taste. They're about how they make us feel, where they come from, and how they enrich our lives.

In a fast-paced world, this is the real luxury: a mindful sip that nourishes the body, clears the mind, and brings us back to balance.

From mushroom coffees for mental clarity to wellness teas and matcha in desserts and savoury dishes, functional beverages are the new luxury, writes Deepa Natarajan Lobo

For generations, coffee and tea have been synonymous with an aromatic wake-up call, energising mornings and keeping us charged throughout the day. However, in today's wellness-driven world, these beloved morning brews are undergoing a fascinating transformation. Across cafés, restaurants, and home kitchens, coffee is being reinvented — not just to enhance the taste but also to boost well-being. Whether it's cognitive-boosting mushrooms or antioxidant-rich matcha, the functional beverage trend is here. Each steaming mug now serves as a vessel of wellness.

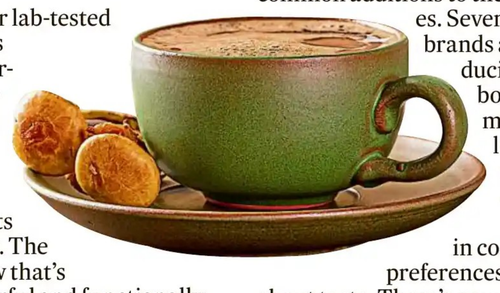
And it's not just about sipping, as wellness teas and coffees, like matcha, are now making their way into everything from guilt-free desserts to gourmet condiments. Think cheesecake, bliss balls, salad dressings, and even spice rubs, all with a functional twist.

A melange of mushrooms & mocha

In India, one of the boldest pioneers in this space is Maverick & Farmer, the artisanal coffee brand from Bengaluru. Their latest innovation? A cup of coffee infused with Lion's Mane mushroom, a superfood known for enhancing memory, focus, and nerve health.

"The purpose of coffee and tea has always been to provide alertness, especially in the morning, to stay focused and energised," says Sreeram Gangadharan, co-founder of Maverick & Farmer. "But what if you could get the same energy boost along with added health benefits? That's how Lion's Mane coffee came into being."

Unlike the instant mixes flooding the market, Maverick & Farmer has spent nearly a year developing a whole-bean infusion process, a first in India. Their lab-tested blend delivers 180% more terpenes (the active cognitive compound in Lion's Mane) than other products in the market. The result? A brew that's deeply flavourful and functionally potent.



"We wanted it to taste like real coffee. Not an extract. Not a powder. Just great beans with added benefits; a cup that gets you into a zone of clarity and calm focus," Gangadharan explains.

While it may sound like a power breakfast beverage, this mushroom-infused coffee isn't confined to the early hours. "Anytime you want to feel clear-headed, whether it's 10 am or 4 pm, this is your go-to beverage," adds Gangadharan.

Tea's therapeutic turn

The much-loved *chai*, with its ancient healing roots, is also undergoing a reinvention. Functional tea blends now feature turmeric, ginseng, probiotics, and ashwagandha — all promising to aid sleep, digestion, and provide a much-needed boost of antioxidants.

"Tea and coffee have undergone a remarkable transformation," says Anurag Bhamidipaty, co-founder of Roastea, a growing tea and coffee chain. "They are no longer just about caffeine. They're evolving into functional, health-enhancing drinks that cater to modern lifestyles. These beverages are becoming key players in overall well-being, making every sip a step towards a healthier lifestyle."

He further adds, "Adaptogens like ashwagandha and ginseng, superfoods like turmeric and matcha, and probiotics for gut health are now common additions to the beverages. Several coffee brands are introducing herbal, botanical teas made for relaxation, immunity, and digestion."

This shift in consumer preferences isn't just about taste. There's now a greater desire to know more about the origins, ethics, and sourcing of each leaf.

"Today's generation is more mindful than ever about what they consume," says Urvaksh Bharucha, head of beverage at the Hyderabad-based Roast Cafe. "They place a strong emphasis on quality, sustainability, and wellness. There's also growing awareness that coffee can be a natural alternative to chemical-laden pre-workout or energy drinks," he adds.

This convergence of premium quality, ethical sourcing, and health-consciousness is reshaping the future of the beverage industry. It's opening up exciting opportunities for brands that can meet these evolving consumer expectations.

A new era for functional beverages

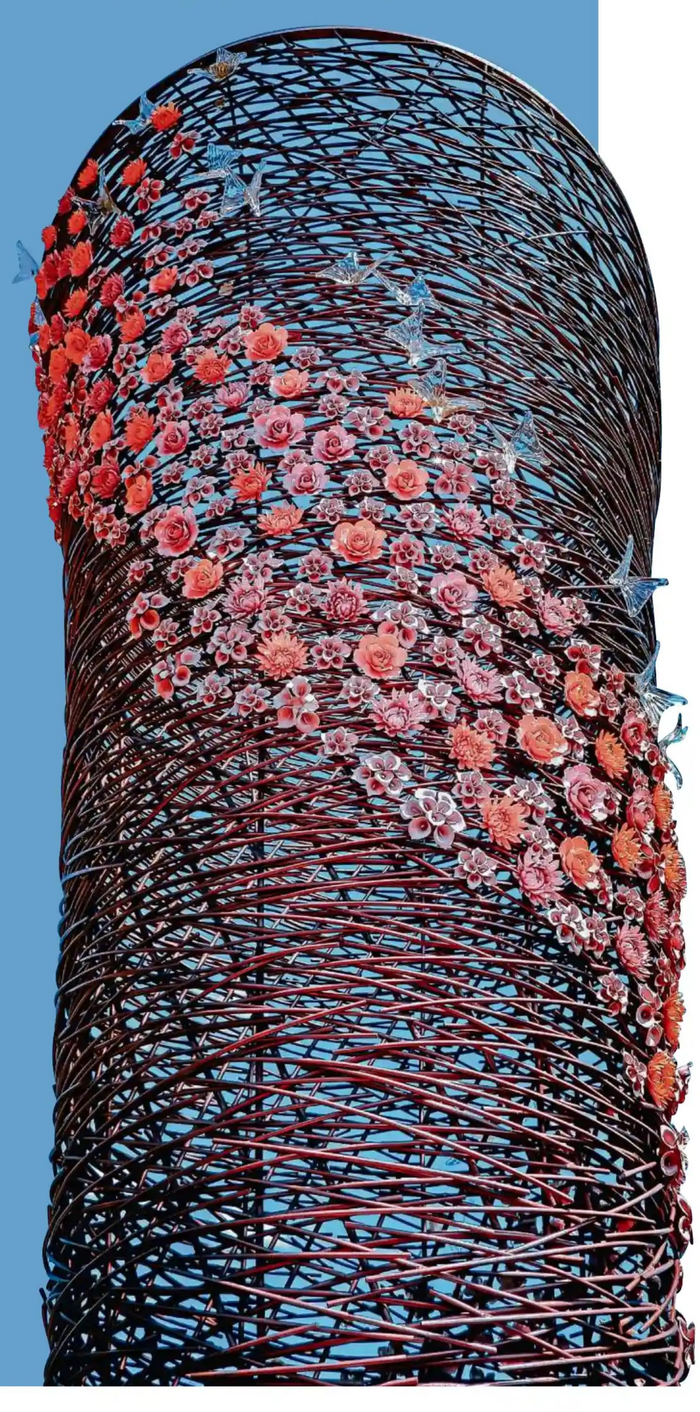
The beverage industry is undergoing a transformation, where each cup is not just a moment of indulgence but also an opportunity for wellness. From matcha's antioxidant power to the cognitive benefits of Lion's Mane mushrooms, functional drinks are now a reflection of our modern approach to health.

These innovations in coffee and tea are not just about flavour, but about offering a lifestyle that resonates with consumers seeking more than just a caffeine fix. They're an invitation to pause, reflect, and enjoy the moment, while also enhancing our mental and physical well-being.

WELLNESS

Transfusing life into Thalassaemia care

Thalassaemia patients depend on regular blood transfusions, but a global shortage threatens their health, especially in low-income regions, writes Dr Sunil Bhat



Transfusion-Dependent Thalassaemia (TDT) is a severe inherited blood disorder where the body cannot produce enough haemoglobin, making regular blood transfusions essential for survival. Despite advances in treatment, a critical shortage of safe and compatible blood is worsening outcomes for patients, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Many patients are unable to maintain adequate pre-transfusion haemoglobin levels, with some falling dangerously low. This leads to severe complications, including tissue damage, bone deformities, growth delays, and an increased risk of cardiac issues and early mortality.

What are the multifaceted challenges affecting blood transfusion support for thalassaemia patients, and what are the strategies for improving transfusion systems worldwide?

The root cause

In many LMICs, blood donation and distribution systems are often fragmented, relying on local hospitals or family members as replacement donors. This disjointed approach undermines blood inventory predictability and poses safety risks. Additionally, logistical inefficiencies, such as inadequate cold-chain infrastructure, often lead to wastage and delays.

Inadequate blood matching

Transfusion-dependent patients face heightened risks of developing alloantibodies (immune responses to foreign red blood cell antigens). Inadequate blood matching — beyond basic ABO and RhD typing — can lead to complications like haemolytic reactions, which affect up to 30% of patients in some regions.

Limited advanced blood safety technologies

In high-income countries, advanced technologies such as Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) and pathogen inactivation are used to ensure blood safety. Unfortunately, these technologies remain inaccessible or underused in many parts of the world, resulting in a higher risk of transfusion-transmitted infections like hepatitis and HIV.

Lack of national blood policies

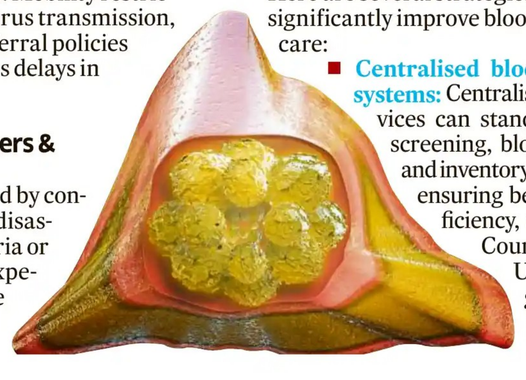
Many countries lack comprehensive national blood policies, which hinders the establishment of quality controls and haemovigilance systems. The absence of centralised registries for rare blood donors also makes it difficult to match patients with compatible blood, especially for those with rare genetic profiles.

External factors add to the crisis

The Covid-19 pandemic had a profound impact on global blood donation systems. In regions like Gujarat, donations dropped by up to 50%, severely affecting transfusion schedules for Thalassaemia patients. Mobility restrictions, fears of virus transmission, and vaccine deferral policies led to dangerous delays in care.

Natural disasters & conflict

Regions affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as Syria or Yemen, often experience complete breakdowns in blood transfusion systems. Damage to hospital infrastructure, shortages of fuel, and disruption of supply chains make it almost impossible to deliver timely and safe blood to those in need.



Strategies for better services

Addressing the blood supply crisis requires systemic reforms, as well as innovative community-based solutions. Here are several strategies that can significantly improve blood transfusion care:

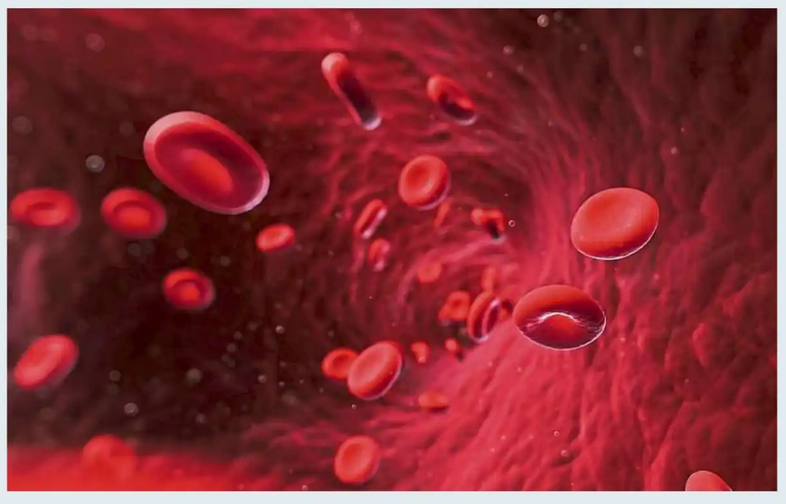
- **Centralised blood collection systems:** Centralising blood services can standardise donor screening, blood collection, and inventory management, ensuring better safety, efficiency, and reliability. Countries like the UK and Singapore have successfully implemented such models, improving blood safety and availability.
- **Encouraging voluntary donors:** A key strategy for ensuring a reliable blood supply is the promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated donors. Programmes like Turkey's "Blood Mother/Blood Father" initiative have shown success in mobilising community support, ensuring sustainable donor pools for Thalassaemia patients.
- **Advanced blood matching & donor registries:** Introducing extended red cell phenotyping and molecular genotyping can pre-empt alloimmunisation and improve donor-recipient matching. National registries for rare blood types are also critical for ensuring that all patients, especially those from minority ethnic groups, have access to suitable blood donors.
- **Strengthening haemovigilance & legal frameworks:** National haemovigilance systems — monitoring the safety and outcomes of blood transfusions — are essential for identifying adverse reactions early. Legislation that mandates safety standards and protocols across blood banks would ensure consistent and reliable care.
- **Digital transformation & AI:** Digital tools that track blood donations, patient histories, and inventory levels can improve efficiency and reduce shortages. Predictive logistics powered by AI can help forecast demand and optimise resource allocation, ensuring blood supply is always available when needed.
- **Public education & awareness campaigns:** One of the main barriers to consistent blood donation is misinformation. Public campaigns that promote the safety and importance of blood donation — especially in the context of post-vaccination or other misconceptions — can encourage more people to donate, thus stabilising blood supplies.

Transfusion-dependent Thalassaemia remains one of the most pressing global health challenges, exacerbated by systemic inefficiencies, a lack of infrastructure, and chronic blood shortages. While advances in gene therapy and synthetic blood products offer hope for the future, the immediate need for safe, reliable, and sustainable blood transfusion services is undeniable. Governments, health organisations, and communities must work together to ensure that every Thalassaemia patient receives the life-saving care they need.

(The author is the head of paediatric haematology, oncology, clinical immunology, and bone marrow transplantation in a leading Bengaluru-based hospital.)

SOME CRISPR SOLUTIONS

- **Synthetic & alternative blood products:** Research into synthetic blood products, such as haemoglobin-based oxygen carriers and lab-grown red blood cells, holds potential for addressing supply shortages in the future. However, these technologies are still in their infancy and face significant challenges in terms of cost and scalability.
- **Gene therapy & curative solutions:** Gene therapies, including CRISPR-based gene editing, are showing promise as potential cures for Thalassaemia. While these treatments have demonstrated success in clinical trials, their high cost and limited availability mean that blood transfusions will remain a cornerstone of Thalassaemia care for the foreseeable future.
- **International blood-sharing networks:** Global collaborations and regional blood-sharing frameworks can help alleviate shortages in countries facing chronic deficits. A coordinated effort to harmonise safety standards and establish cross-border agreements could bolster blood transfusion systems and ensure no patient is left without the care they need.



Monsoon magic in Sindhudurg

From ancient sea forts and misty forests to heritage villages and coastal cuisine, Sindhudurg offers a peek into Maharashtra's untamed Konkan charm, writes Shweta Dravid

Queen's Beach is where serene waters meet the historic charm of Sindhudurg Fort. IMAGE COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

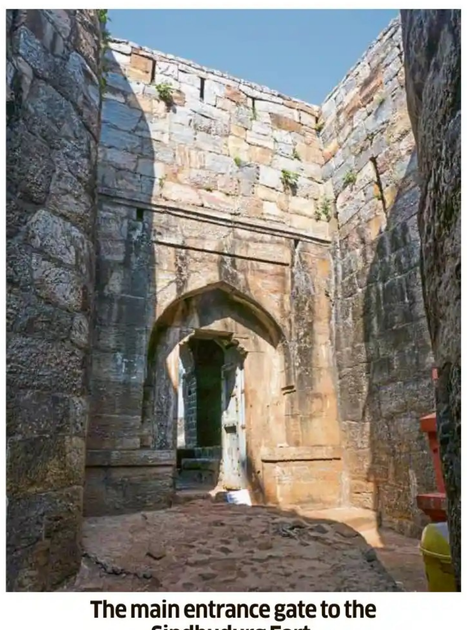
Tucked away along Maharashtra's rugged Konkan coast, Sindhudurg is a beautiful escape just beyond Goa's bustling tourist trail. Fringed by ancient sea forts and serene backwaters, it's a haven for travellers who favour the unhurried and heartfelt. Come monsoon, this coastal district transforms into a cinematic landscape — cliffs cloaked in mist, rain-washed trails winding through dense forests, and beaches that exude a wild, windswept poetry. This isn't your typical seaside retreat; it's for those who find beauty in the storm and magic in the quiet. So lace up your boots, zip up your raincoat, and surrender to the raw beauty of Konkan's wild heart.

Unearth Maratha history through its forts

History enthusiasts will find Sindhudurg irresistible. This coastal stronghold of the Marathas boasts two of Shivaji Maharaj's most formidable forts. Commissioned between 1664 and 1667 under his orders, Sindhudurg Fort rises dramatically from a rocky island off Malvan, built to protect the Konkan coastline from foreign naval powers. Spread across 48 acres, its three-kilometre-long ramparts still stand tall, defying centuries of waves and wind. The fort was once home to royal residences, freshwater wells and a small shrine inside its walls — one of the few with a statue of the warrior king. Reaching the fort requires a 15-minute ferry from Malvan jetty.
Timings: 9 am to 5 pm (varies seasonally)

Vijaydurg, where the sea guards history

A scenic one-and-a-half-hour drive away lies Vijaydurg Fort, another sentinel of the Arabian Sea. Believed to have been built by the Shilahara dynasty in the 12th century and later expanded by Shivaji after its capture in 1653, its promontory location makes it accessible from three sides only by sea, enhancing its defensive might. Once the naval base of legendary admiral Kanhoji Angre, Vijaydurg still bears testimony to its past, with about a 200-metre tunnel, massive bastions, and a laterite sea wall. Nicknamed the Gibraltar of the East, it offers sweeping monsoon views of grey waters and wind-lashed cliffs.
Timings: 8 am to 6 pm (varies seasonally)



The main entrance gate to the Sindhudurg Fort.

Pause at Shri Wageshwar Temple

For a spiritual interlude, head to Shri Wageshwar Temple in Malvan. Said to be several centuries old, this shrine, dedicated to Lord Shiva, holds deep significance for local fishing communities. The name is linked to "Wagh" (tiger) and "Ishwar" (God) in local lore.

Built in classic Konkan style, the temple has a stone base, laterite walls, and a sloping tiled roof designed to withstand the monsoon. The sanctum houses a Shivling, while carved wooden pillars and a serene courtyard showcase the understated elegance of coastal temple architecture. Smaller shrines to Ganapati and Devi Bhavani add to its sacred aura.
Timings: 6 am to 12 pm, 4 pm to 9 pm

The fort lies on the shore of Malvan town.

NIvti rock and Nivti beach.

Get your adrenaline pumping at Tarkarli

After exploring forts and temples, Tarkarli offers thrills with a tranquil backdrop. Just 7 km south of Malvan, this beach village is famed for its pristine shores, clear waters and reputation as one of Maharashtra's adventure hubs. Fringed with Suru trees and homestays, Tarkarli is especially enchanting during the monsoon. While heavy rains usually pause scuba diving, activities like jet skiing, banana boat rides and parasailing may operate when weather permits. Outside the monsoon, Tarkarli is one of the few Konkan spots offering scuba diving and snorkelling, thanks to its coral reefs and good underwater visibility.
Timings: 9 am to 6 pm

Troller fishing boats are used for fishing in this region.

Enjoy watersports at Tsunami Island

A short boat ride from Devbagh Beach takes you to Tsunami Island, a crescent-shaped sandbar that appears and disappears with the tide. Locals say it formed after the 2004 tsunami, though geologists attribute its shifting sands to tidal activity. During the monsoon, misty backwaters and shimmering mangroves add to its ethereal charm.

Surrounded by shallow, calm waters, the island is perfect for kayaking, water scooters and banana boat rides, or simply strolling along the sandy expanse while taking in sweeping backwater views.
Timings: Accessible during low tide, generally between 10 am and 4 pm; exact hours vary with tidal patterns.

Explore the heritage village of Pinguli

No trip to Sindhudurg is complete without visiting Pinguli, a heritage village near Kudal. Here, the Thakar community has preserved the 400-year-old Chitrakathi storytelling tradition. Once entertainers — and, according to local folklore, occasional informants during Shivaji's time — the Thakars narrate epics like the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* using vivid paintings, string puppets (Kalsutri Bahulya), and leather shadow puppets (Dayati).

The Thakar Adivasi Kala Aangan, founded by National Award-winning artist Parshuram Gangawane, is a museum and performance space showcasing this rare folk art. Visitors can watch live shows, view handcrafted puppets, and attend workshops that keep these traditions alive.
Timings: 10 am to 6 pm (Closed on select holidays)

Discover regal splendour at Sawantwadi Palace

For a deeper glimpse into Maratha heritage, visit the Sawantwadi Palace, about 40 minutes from Malvan. Built between 1755 and 1803 by Khem Sawant III of the Sawant Bhonsale dynasty, this palace once served as the royal residence and administrative hub of the Sawantwadi principality.

Constructed with laterite stone and topped with red Mangalore tiles, the palace blends Maratha and Portuguese influences. Surrounded by manicured lawns and lotus ponds, its interiors include a Royal Museum displaying heirlooms, portraits, vintage weaponry, and hand-painted Ganjifa cards. The palace also hosts workshops in Sawantwadi Lacquerware, where artisans create intricate wooden toys, trays and furniture — a craft still nurtured by the royal descendants who live here. Boutique stays are available for those seeking a regal experience.
Timings: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Gastronomic delights

Sindhudurg is as much about taste as it is about scenery. Family-run kitchens and seaside shacks serve authentic Malvani and Konkani cuisine.

In Malvan, Hotel Konkan Kesari and Atithi Bamboo are known for seafood thalis. Don't miss stuffed pomfret, crispy Bombil Fry (Bombay Duck), and *Prawn Koliwada*. Vegetarians will relish *Phanasachi Bhaji* (jackfruit curry) and *Kaju Chi Aamti* (cashew curry). To cool the palate, try *Solkadhi*, a kokum and coconut milk drink.

For home-style flavours, head to Hotel Sumitra, a humble eatery run by a mother-son duo, praised for its simple yet soulful seafood. For dessert, savour *Ukadiche Modak* — steamed rice dumplings with jaggery and coconut, traditionally made during *Ganesh Chaturthi* but available year-round.

Sindhudurg transforms into a magical canvas during the monsoons, with mist-shrouded forts, untamed beaches, and sweeping vistas. This coastal jewel reveals itself slowly, like the monsoon rain — leaving you captivated and yearning for more.

ADVERTORIAL

Advertorial

The Magic of Lapland

Northern lights, husky trails, and the joy of slow, snowy days

Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World
neil@veenaworld.com

I have got a trip planned to Finnish Lapland this coming February, and I can't stop thinking about it. While working with the product team to build some of Veena World's most exciting new itineraries to this region, I found myself falling deeper into the story of Lapland.

Every now and then, there's a destination that captures your imagination long before you book the flight. For me, Lapland has always been one of those places. A snowy wonderland where huskies pull sledges through silent forests, where the sky dances in waves of green and purple, and where Santa Claus actually has an address. It sounds almost too magical to be real. But now, it's not just a dream. I have got a trip planned to Finnish Lapland this coming February, and I can't stop thinking about it. While working with the product team to build some of Veena World's most exciting new itineraries to this region, I found myself falling deeper into the story of Lapland. The more I read, the more it felt like I was unlocking a fairytale—one filled with reindeer, snow-dusted cabins, glass igloos, and wide-eyed wonder.

So today's piece isn't just about what to see or do in Lapland—it's about the feeling it evokes. The kind of place that makes you believe in magic again, whether you're five or fifty. Let's head north into the snow...

Chasing the Northern Lights

There are few natural wonders in the world as mesmerising as the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis. And Lapland is one of the best places on Earth to witness this phenomenon. Imagine standing under a pitch-dark sky, wrapped in layers of warmth, as waves of green, violet, and even pink ripple across the sky. It's surreal. It's silent. And it's unforgettable. What makes Lapland special is not just the visibility of the auroras, but the way the entire experience is curated. Whether you're snowshoeing through a silent forest, riding in a heated glass-roofed sleigh, or simply lying back in a glass igloo—this is nature's theatre at its finest. The lights usually make their appearance between September and March, and February is one of the best times to go. Of course, there's no guarantee—they are famously elusive—but even the anticipation adds to the magic. And if you do catch them? You'll carry that moment with you forever.

Huskies, Reindeer & Winter Adventures

Lapland isn't just about what's above you in the sky—it's also about the rush of adventure beneath your feet. Think of gliding across frozen landscapes on a sledge pulled by huskies, the air crisp and clean, the only sound being paws in snow and your own laughter echoing in the silence. Husky safaris are one of the most iconic experiences here, where you're not just a passenger—you get to drive the sledge, steering your own team through snow-draped forests. Then there are the reindeer safaris. Slower, more serene, and incredibly special. Reindeer have been a part of Sámi culture for centuries, and sitting in a sleigh pulled by one feels like slipping into a snow-globe fantasy. Often, these rides are paired with stories from the herders about migration, traditions, and the deeply rooted connection between people and animals in this part of the world.

Beyond that, there's so much more: snowmobiling across frozen lakes, cross-country skiing, and even floating in thermal suits in an icy river (yes, really). Lapland turns winter into a playground.

Santa Claus Village

Tucked right on the edge of the Arctic Circle near Rovaniemi, the Santa Claus Village is where childhood dreams come to life—no matter how old you are. This isn't just a gimmick or a theme park; it's a charming, snow-covered village that captures the magic of Christmas all year round. You can meet the real Santa Claus (yes, he's there every day), send a postcard with an official Arctic Circle stamp from the Santa Claus Post Office, and even cross the Arctic Circle line—which is marked and celebrated right through the village. There are elves, twinkling lights, and just enough kitsch to make it all feel beautifully nostalgic rather than over-the-top.

For families, it's pure magic. Watching your child hand their wishlist to Santa in his log cabin is a memory that lingers. But even for couples, solo travellers, or groups of friends, there's something special about tapping into that wide-eyed wonder we all carried as kids. And during winter, when the village is blanketed in snow and the sky glows pink at midday, it really does feel like you've stepped into a storybook.

Northern Lights: The Arctic's Grandest Show

Seeing the Northern Lights—or Aurora Borealis—is one of those moments that stops time. In Lapland, you're in one of the best places on Earth to witness this natural wonder. Between late August and early April, the sky frequently dances with waves of green, pink, violet, and sometimes even crimson, especially on clear, dark nights far from artificial lights. What makes Lapland even more magical is the variety of ways you can chase the auroras. You could bundle up in thermal gear and set off on a snowmobile safari deep into the wilderness. Or glide silently through snow-dusted forests on a reindeer sleigh. You could even stay in a glass igloo or Aurora cabin—snuggled under a warm blanket with nothing but the Arctic sky above. What struck me during my research is that spotting the lights isn't just a tick on the travel bucket list—it's emotional. Locals treat it like an old friend arriving after a long journey. There's a quiet reverence that surrounds it.

As I prepare for my upcoming trip, I keep returning to the same thought: Lapland doesn't just offer experiences—it offers emotion. The hush of snowfall in the middle of the forest. The awe of a sky lit up by auroras. The joy of watching a child (or your own inner child) whisper secrets to Santa. It's a place that invites you to slow down, to feel wonder again, and to believe in the power of nature, story, and imagination.

If you have ever dreamed of a winter that feels like stepping into a snow globe—Lapland is waiting. That's it from me today. As I always say, keep celebrating life.

Email: travel@veenaworld.com | Read articles by Neil Patil, Veena Patil, and Sunila Patil every week. Just scan the QR code below or visit the Veena World website: www.veenaworld.com

The most magical season to witness the brightest Northern Lights is almost here... Don't miss it!
Imagine the night sky coming alive with waves of green, pink, and violet — nature's own light show, the breathtaking Aurora Borealis. Caused by high-energy particles from the sun dancing in the atmosphere, this once-in-a-lifetime spectacle draws millions to Scandinavia every year. This year, let it be your turn!
Scandinavia Northern Lights (9D) Dec 1, Jan 16, Mar 2 390000 - 400000
Scandinavia Northern lights with Icebreaker Cruise 10 Days - Jan 28 430000 - 440000
Iceland Scandinavia Northern Lights (14D) Nov 27, Jan 15 530000 - 540000
Iceland Scandinavia Northern Lights with Icebreaker Cruise 15 Days - Nov 20, Feb 12 575000 - 580000
T&C apply
Book Online 365 days 24x7 Visit veenaworld.com
veenaworld.com | Toll-Free: 1800 313 5555 | 1800 22 7979
Veena World Bengaluru: Jayanagar 887 997 2217
Indiranagar 887 997 9500
Veena World
Northern Lights
Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado!
VEENA WORLD
Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life.

POT-POURRI

Dried organic damask rose petals.

Oman & Kannauj

Two lands, one rose

Although worlds apart, Oman's misty hills have found a soulmate in the river winds of Kannauj. In both places, tradition and skill meet to create a timeless perfume, writes Tejashee Kashyap

Up in the desert mountains of Oman's Hajar range, the harsh, vertiginously terraced slopes radiate pink. One moment you're in the capital city of Muscat, surrounded by palaces and sprawling forts; the next, you're flying down broad highways toward the Hajar Mountains that loom behind the city's low-slung silhouette. But nothing quite prepared me for the mountain town of Jabal Akhdar, blooming in surreal stripes of pink.

Between April and June, the rugged Hajar Mountains are full of *Rosa damascena*, commonly known as the damask rose. Revered by poets and perfumers alike, it's one of Oman's most treasured gifts. They bloom only once a year, and only for a few fleeting weeks — so the harvesting begins early, often before dawn. There's a reason for the rush: the essential oils that give damask roses their prized fragrance are at their most potent just before sunrise. As the day goes on, their aroma slowly begins to fade.

Pink and white damask roses with vials of rose essence.

At 5 am, Jabal Akhdar feels different — quieter, more pristine. The temperature dips lower, the moon hangs heavy behind the cliffs, and the only light comes from a faint glow rising behind the mountains. At one of the farms, I'm with a group of harvesters, gathering damask roses — pinch, twist, drop — into their wide baskets. The blooms are tightly curled, in delicate shades of pink. But their scent? Anything but modest. Even in the cold air, it drifts — soft, heady, with a hint of peppery sweetness. By 6 am, the sky begins to shift. The baskets are nearly full, and some spill into large sacks.

Later, the roses are taken down the slopes to be distilled into rosewater in copper pots. Carefully filtered, they are then poured into clay vessels that eventually help the scent to deepen before bottling. It's incredible to know how far these floral offerings will travel: to homes across Arabia, misted over guests' hands, stirred into halwa, brewed with coffee, or baked into pastries; and for skincare and spiritual needs. These very blooms also find their way to one of the world's most luxurious perfume houses, Amouage, in Muscat, where they are transformed into bottled fragrances and sent to the farthest corners of the world.

Traditional distillation and extraction of essential oil from damask roses.

Today, some 300–500 small-scale Omani farmers grow these blooms along the slopes, which have also become a bit of a tourist magnet. You can try your hand at rose-picking, snap some photos, and browse little stores selling everything from rose oils to local attars. The villagers continue to nurture these flowers in the traditional Omani way.

History has it that the damask rose is named after the Syrian city of Damascus, believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited capital in the world. Oman's damask rose, now flourishing in its mountain ranges, likely arrived in the 16th century and was introduced by the Ottoman Empire. Back then, it ruled regions west of Oman and championed the art of rose cultivation.

The scent, the blooms, and the age-old farming techniques reminded me how this very flower has found its way to India, shaping the country's perfume capital, Kannauj.

The damask roses bloom only once a year, and only for a few fleeting weeks, so the harvesting begins early. PIC COURTESY: OMAN TOURISM

But India's damask rose, found in the fertile alluvial soils of the Ganga basin, is said to have been brought from Persia by the first Mughal emperor, Babur. With the Mughals came an extravagant use of scent and with it, the rise of Kannauj's centuries-old perfumery tradition. The region's fertile soil and climate give the rose its distinct profile.

But Kannauj and Oman aren't so different. Visiting both, the sight of those delicate pink blooms transported me back and forth between the two. Their traditions of rose cultivation and distillation share great similarities — everything is done by hand, with the artisans having honed their craft over decades. Even when it comes to global perfumery, Oman and Kannauj had already mastered the art of rose cultivation and distillation long before France's Grasse became synonymous with luxury fragrance. Pranav Kapoor, an eighth-generation perfumer from Kannauj who also runs a perfume tourism initiative, shares how he's had perfumers from global fragrance houses walk into his distillery in Kannauj and say it felt like what Grasse must have been a hundred years ago. "My family firm first reached out to Amouage back in 1986. We've had a cross-border exchange for decades. Recently, we even hosted Cecile Zarokian — who's created fragrances for Amouage and other luxury houses — in Kannauj," he adds, explaining the striking parallels between Kannauj and Oman's perfumery traditions.

Yet, while both regions celebrate the damask rose, their characteristics differ. "Oman's rose extracts tend to be slightly deeper, almost duskier in tone. While the Kannauj rose is delicate, soft with a green-sharp edge, when it follows the traditional deg-bhapka method. Both roses have distinct personalities, shaped by their soils," explains Kapoor. Similarly, their final products have taken different paths. Oman's variety, valued for its sweet scent, focuses more on rosewater extraction. Kannauj remains a stronghold in the creation of rose attar using time-tested distillation methods.

What's moving is how something as small and fragile as a flower can carry so much weight. The damask rose comes with a lot of power; emotionally, spiritually, and sensorially. It connects these two beautiful places in ways deeper than trade or tradition. It's strange how something as simple as scent can do what language often cannot. "And let's be honest — when something smells this good, borders don't matter," Kapoor rightly says.

DAB HAND

AI art: Dopamine rush minus nuance?

From Ghibli imitations to images in Dali's style, AI-generated art is reducing great art to memes and mimicry, and there needs to be a collective pushback, artists tell Sravasti Datta

Japanese artist Hayao Miyazaki's meticulous artwork is the outcome of painstaking creativity — an ethos that finds expression in Ghibli Studio, the Japanese animation studio he co-founded. Today, however, the legendary artist's work has been reduced to mimicry with ChatGPT's image generator, which allows users to generate Ghibli-style artwork for free, within seconds. While this trend is being viewed as "fun" and just another AI development, it has brought forth urgent questions about plagiarism and raised ethical dilemmas about reducing artists' works to memes.

Cybersecurity expert Karan Saini explains that AI art is not original: "AI can create images with combinations of objects and characteristics that might make each image 'new', 'original', or otherwise 'unique', but without the training data based on theft of copyrighted materials, its generation capabilities take a significant hit. So, in a philosophical sense, it cannot create anything original."

Leading Indian graphic artists unanimously agree that the AI Ghibli trend is plain theft of Miyazaki's work that sets a dangerous precedent. Graphic novelist and artist Appupen has delved into the issue of the challenges and promises of AI in his graphic novel, Dream Machine, co-written with Lauren Daudet. "AI art is pure business. The threat is to artists' income stream — images are being created based on branding."

Graphic novelist Sarnath Banerjee says the issue is more about how the AI Ghibli trend is being defended. "There are techno-positive consumers who argue that AI has 'democratised' art and made it 'accessible'; that everyone can be an artist and make 'art' by using Ghibli filters. Some even say Miyazaki is getting recognition! This logic shows how low the cultural bar has been set. The whole involvement of civil society is not with art but in legitimising stealing and defending it."

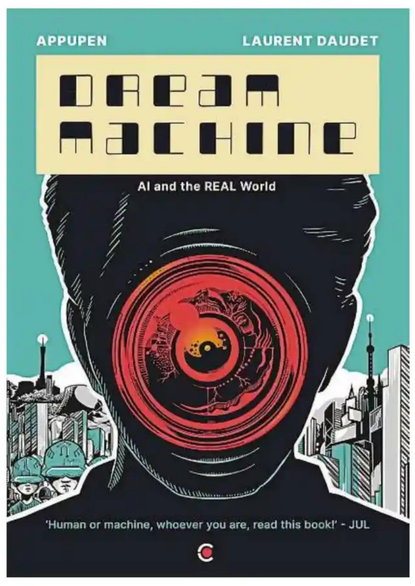
He argues that ChatGPT has disrespected Studio Ghibli's work because it can get away with it. Sarnath desists from adopting a Pollyanna attitude that art will abide irrespective of AI. "The art world is already broken due to funding cuts and over-commercialisation. Art is not in a healthy place. When we say that art will abide, we forget that AI is increasingly becoming better at mimicking; there is a simulacrum of real things."

A fan art poster of Miyazaki and his creations. PIC COURTESY: DEVIANTART

Award-winning illustrator Priya Kuriyan says art becomes special when someone brings a certain niche to it. "AI is coming from other sources; it is not a product of human emotions, and there is no nuance or emotional depth. Original work involves the vulnerabilities of the artist; it is a reaction to the artist and his experiences."

Intent is what distinguishes AI art from original art. "When you use AI, you are creating by accident, whereas when you are creating a book or an illustration, there is intent. In AI, one cobbles together something." She says that the AI Ghibli trend is a tool to give people a dopamine rush. "People will make profile pictures that will provide momentary pleasure."

An AI-generated photo resembling a Ghibli animation. PHOTO AI



The cover of Appupen's graphic novel, Dream Machine.

The only way to push back against the perils of AI, Priya says, is to incorporate discussions around art in schools. Orijit Sen, a pioneer in Indian graphic novels, says he doesn't have as much of an issue with AI tools as he has with trends like AI Ghibli. "AI is a new development, innovations keep happening, and one can't stop that. But the issue is with the misuse of Miyazaki's works. It is reducing a powerful body of work into mimicry. Why are you demeaning an artist? The passing gratification of a trend takes away the sacredness of an artwork."

Art is not merely an end product, Orijit stresses. "It takes a lifetime of work, thought, caring, and observation to create a work of art. And that is why creating and communing with art is the closest thing one can have to a spiritual experience. Art is a primary form of human expression, and it cannot die. It is our collective treasure, and we need to preserve it."

While AI has its advantages, its unbridled development at the cost of jobs, ethics and creativity needs a collective pushback, feel artists.

DISCOVER INDIAN ART

How fragrance shaped power and pleasure

Perfumes, regarded as a symbol of royalty and elegance across Safavid Iran, Ottoman Turkey, and the Mughal courts, were also employed as a tool in political theatre

In the early Modern period, Mughal, Rajput and Deccan courtly lives played out in an atmosphere of calculated decadence. The lives of nobility and royalty were suffused with elaborate ornamentation, opulent textiles and pleasing fragrances. All manner of scents, derived from flowers, woods, leaves, and animal parts, were crafted using formulae perfected and passed down through generations.

Given the power of perfumes, much care was taken with the ingredients that went into their making. Merchants often embarked on perilous journeys to acquire specific musks, aromatics and incense. These substances were almost always too expensive for the masses and, as the preserve of the wealthy, were only meant for use in aristocratic spaces such as mansions, palaces, courts and temples.

The use of perfumes across Safavid Iran, Ottoman Turkey, the Indian Sultanates and the Mughal courts was deeply influenced by Persian aesthetics. Within this Persianate milieu, etiquette — or *adab* — shaped elite behaviour, and perfumery became a mark of refinement. Manuals and treatises of the time detail how to make and use perfume properly, as an indicator of status and moral character.

Spittoon or incense burner, attributed to Deccan, Bijapur or Golconda, late 16th–early 17th century. PIC COURTESY: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Indic traditions offer their own discourses on scent; some texts emphasise the use of perfumed ingredients in worship to purify the air, whilst others discuss perfumed ingredients in the context of intimacy and pleasure. Good smells were associated with auspiciousness and virtue, while bad smells were linked to decay and sin. These ideas were integrated into Persianate courtly structures — incense, scented water, scented wines, paan and other fragrant mouth fresheners became common in courtly etiquette.

Smaller regional courts — influenced by the Mughal courts — continued, and built on such scent traditions, integrating them with pre-existing practices of their regions. Court paintings show imagery of rulers holding flowers to their noses, lovers exchanging garlands, and women at their toilette applying perfume — visual tropes that capture how deeply fragrance shaped elite life.

Perfuming spaces was as important as perfuming bodies. The 15th-century Nimatnama-i-Nasiruddin-Shahi, a cookbook from Malwa, instructs how to scent palace walls with complex pastes of ambergris, sandalwood, basil, and turmeric leaves. Paintings from across the subcontinent show rooms filled with incense, gardens planted with fragrant blossoms, and romantic scenes staged in scented groves. Scent sets the tone of a space — whether to please a deity, seduce a lover, or soothe a ruler.

Mughal and Rajput rulers loved scented gardens, often hosting gatherings in these carefully cultivated spaces. Gardens featured fruit trees and water features designed to delight the senses. Even water was carefully managed — kept fresh to avoid the foul smells of stagnation. In these gardens, visual and olfactory performances were part of statecraft — perfume became a tool in royal ritual and political theatre.

Despite the yawning gap between today's times and these courtly cultures, our relationship with scent remains strikingly similar. Perfume continues to signify refinement, class and taste. In many ways, we are not so far removed from these worlds as we continue to innovate ways to distill the fleeting beauty of the natural world into something lasting and exquisite.

A prince conversing with a woman while taking refreshments on a terrace, Mughal India, 1710–20. PIC COURTESY: CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Simran Agarwal, MAP Academy

Discover Indian Art *is a monthly column that delves into fascinating stories on art from across the subcontinent, curated by the editors of the MAP Academy. Find them on Instagram as @map_academy*

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com